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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## DIRECTOR

OF THE

# BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS

FOR

THE YEAR 1900.

PART II.

MONTHLY BULLETINS, JANUARY TO JUNE, 1900, INCLUSIVE,  
Nos. 76-81, VOL. VIII.

DECEMBER 6, 1900.—Referred to the Committee on Printing  
and ordered to be printed.

WASHINGTON:

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1900.

AR1.6:8

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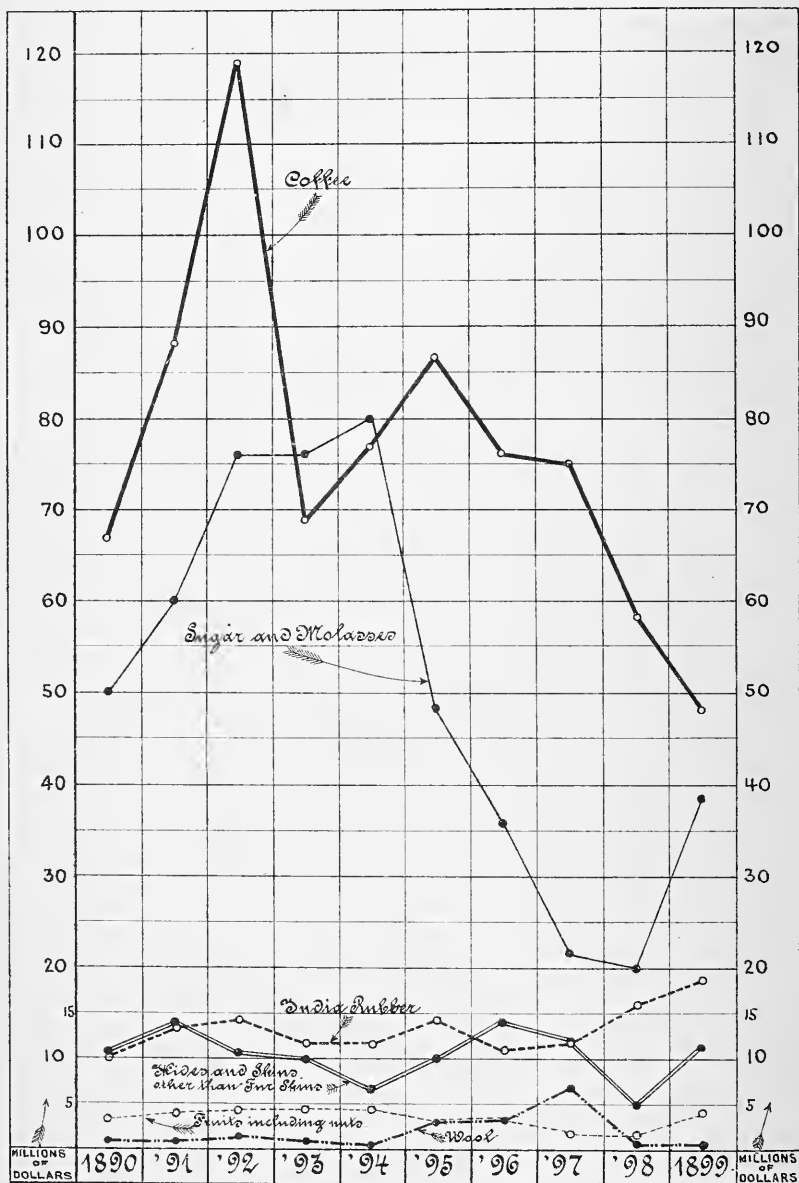
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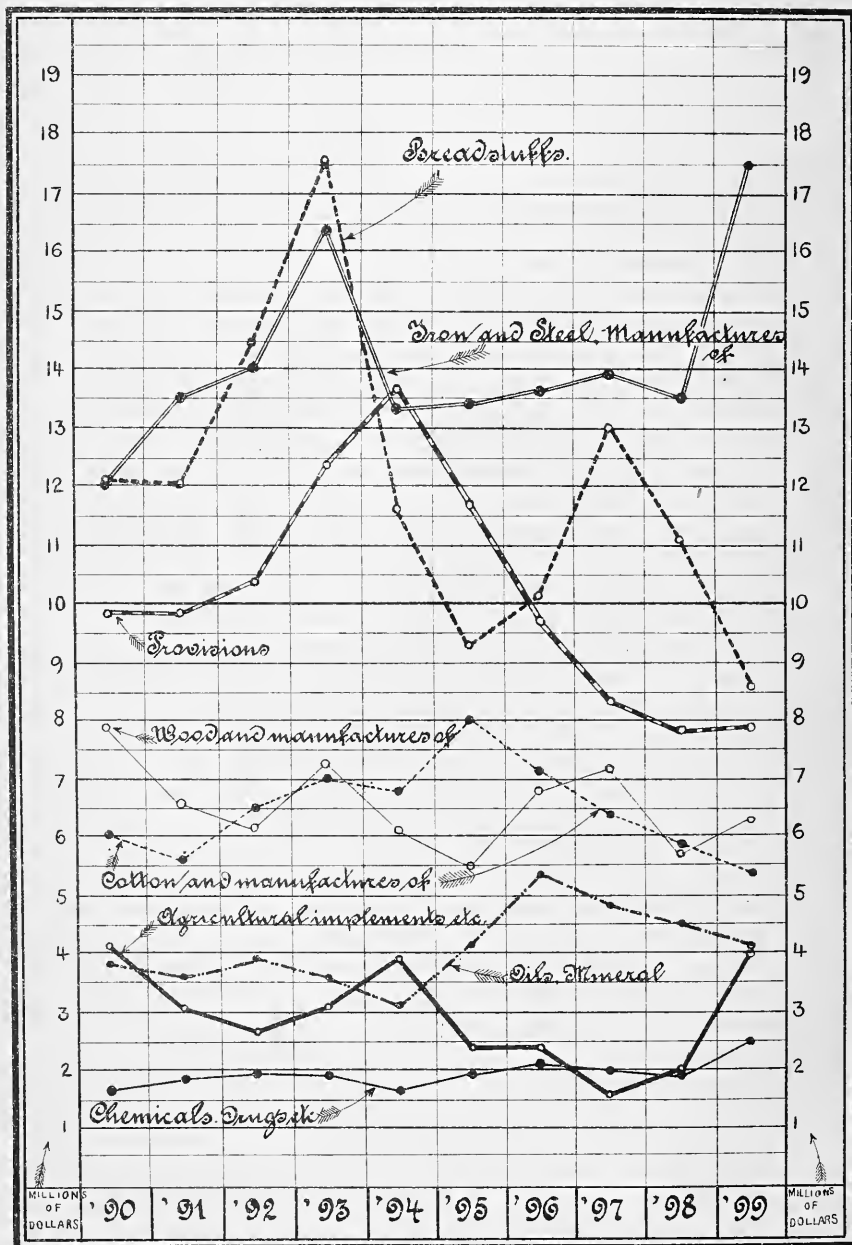
# Imports

into the U.S. from Mexico, Central and South America, and the West-Indies, Years 1890 to 1899.





Exports,  
of Principal Articles from the U. S. to Mexico,  
Central and South America and the West Indies  
1890 ~ 1899.



# MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

## BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

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VOL. VIII.

JANUARY, 1900.

No. 1.

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### ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

#### REGULATIONS FOR APPLICANTS FOR GOVERNMENT LANDS.

Mr. FRANCOIS S. JONES, Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* at the Legation of the United States, has forwarded to the Department of State at Washington, for the use of the Bureau of the American Republics, a copy and translation of a decree recently issued by the Argentine Government regulating the lease and purchase of public lands in that Republic. The translation is as follows:

"Whereas it being necessary to amend the regulations in force concerning the leasing of public lands, authorized by article 101 of the law of October 19, 1876, the President of the Republic decrees:

"ARTICLE 1. Every person who applies for the lease of public lands must deposit in the treasury of the Bureau of Lands and Colonies the first annual quota which he may be required to pay; and said Bureau, upon issuing a receipt to him, shall state therein the locality applied for, as well as the day and exact hour when the deposit was made.

"ART. 2. Priority in the award of lands will be determined by the date and hour of the deposit of the first quota. Present settlers, however, who make application for the rent of land or for the purchase of land which they occupy, shall be preferred in the granting of leases, in conformity with the clauses of this decree, providing they avail themselves of this advantage within a period of 90 days from the date of the decree.

"ART. 3. If the land is vacant and can be granted in lease, the Bureau of Lands and Colonies will draw up, in duplicate, a proper contract with the lessee, which will be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, for approval by the Executive power, by which act it will become effective.

"ART. 4. If the land be not vacant and the location applied for can not be granted, the Bureau of Lands and Colonies must immediately return the quota paid, for which purpose the Bureau will deposit in the Bank of the Argentine Nation, the following day after collection, to its own order and as current account, all sums which it receives in this connection. If the contract should be approved, the said Bureau will transfer the respective quota to the order of the General Treasury of the nation.

"ART. 5. The leasing price per annum will be according to the following scale for 2,500 *hectares* (one *hectare* is equivalent to 2.471 acres), to be paid annually in advance, to wit:

"In the territories of the Pampa Central, Chubut, Neuquén, Río Negro and Santa Cruz, with the exception of the lands fronting the rivers Negro, Colorado, Chubut, Deseado, Chalia, Santa Cruz, Coyle, Gallegos and their respective affluents, \$200, national currency (at the present gold rate, \$2.36 national currency equals \$1 in gold).

"The lots fronting on the rivers mentioned in the above section, \$250 national currency.

"In Tierra del Fuego, \$300 national currency.

"In the Chaco and Formosa, \$150 national currency.

"ART. 6. The leasing period shall be ten years from the date of the approval of the contract by the executive power, but it can be renewed at its expiration up to an equal number of years at the price prevailing at the time of the renewal.

"ART. 7. No person can lease a tract of land larger than 10,000 *hectares* in Tierra del Fuego or when fronting on the rivers cited in article 5, nor of a greater extension than 20,000 *hectares* in the other parts of the national territories likewise mentioned in that article.

"ART. 8. Failure to pay any of the annual payments when they become due works in itself a repeal of the contract without right of reclamation whatever on the part of the lessee, and the improvements made by him remain to the benefit of the State.

"ART. 9. If, during the period of the lease, the State itself should decide to colonize the land conceded, or grant it as a bounty and with the obligation to colonize to any railway or canal enterprise, or other undertaking of general utility, the contract shall be considered as terminated. In this event, the lessee shall have the right to a gratuitous grant of a lot of 100 *hectares* where he has built his house and be given the priority in the purchase of 300 additional *hectares*.

"ART. 10. The use, for commercial purposes, of the woods existing on lands leased is prohibited during the period of the lease, excepting where it is expressly conceded, and such concession can only be made to the lessee.

"ART. 11. At the expiration of contracts for lease the improvements existing on the land remain to the benefit of the Government.

"ART. 12. When the lease is made for surveyed land, the lessee shall



be obliged to pay for the surveying at a rate of 6 cents per *hectare*, which sum shall be paid in ten annual payments of equal amounts.

“ART. 13. When the lease is made on land not surveyed, the lessee shall be required to have the survey made by a surveyor graduated from a national university within the period of eighteen months from the date of the approval of the contract.

“ART. 14. The lessees must take possession, at their own expense and without intervention of the State, of the land granted them, whether it be surveyed or unsurveyed.

“ART. 15. On unsurveyed lands no lots situated on running streams, lakes, lagoons, or the seacoast can be conceded with a frontage greater than one-third of their depth.

“ART. 16. The lease shall be *ipso facto* rescinded, with loss of the quotas paid in, whenever the lessee fails to fulfill the provision in article 13.

“ART. 17. Present lessees of lands can avail themselves of the provisions of this decree, provided they make use of this privilege within twelve months from this date; in this event the leasing price will be that stipulated in their contracts whose terms have not expired.

“ART. 18. All laws regulating the lease of public lands prior to the present decree are herewith abolished, except in the settlement of pending business.”

#### COMMERCE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Under the caption “Our trade with the Argentine,” the “British Trade Journal,” for December 1, 1899, says:

“While in some of the markets of the world there is a marked decline in British commerce, it is gratifying to note that British goods still head the list of the imports in the Argentine Republic. With its wool, cattle, horses, mules, frozen meat, and ostrich feathers, its vast pampas, magnificent waterways, extensive railway system, and splendid climate, that country is in a position to do a large and increasing trade, and is doing it. Its volume amounted to: In imports, £19,657,789 in 1897 and to £21,485,780 in 1898; in exports £20,233,859 in 1897 and to £26,765,892 in 1898. Of its largely increased exports Great Britain purchased to the amount of £7,788,332 in 1898, which shows a great advance over the amounts of preceding years, while the Republic’s purchases from us were not augmented in proportion.

“Great Britain exported to the Argentine Republic goods to the value of £4,515,417 in 1894 and £5,586,276 in 1898. Apparently there is an increase, but insomuch as the increase is not in proportion to the total augmentation of the Argentine imports, there is really a decline in our trade. The causes of this are not far to seek. Among them there is the watchful, active competition of other countries, who are younger in the field, notably the United States and Germany in manufactures, who, by careful study of the peculiar wants of the country,

and by the adaptation of patterns and styles to its tastes, have secured a large and increasing share of the trade. Secondly, there is the conservatism or indifference of many of our manufacturers and merchants, who sometimes seem to act as if they did not care much whether people send them orders or not. Rivals study their wants, tastes and languages, and persistently solicit and obtain orders. By these means, and by furnishing illustrated lists and catalogues in the vernacular, they have succeeded in attracting much of the business which was formerly done by this country.

"The following are some of the chief items of our exports to the Republic:

	1894.	1898.
Cotton goods.....	£807, 385	£1, 274, 409
Hardware and cutlery.....	42, 409	48, 799
Implements.....	45, 774	41, 456
Jute yarn.....	12, 494	23, 474
Jute manufactures.....	438, 584	266, 716
Machinery of all kinds.....	531, 812	335, 786
Iron (wrought and unwrought).....	547, 754	894, 353

"In cotton fabrics, for the manufacture of which this country is still preeminent, there is an increase of 50 per cent for the period named, and about 33 per cent on iron, but on some other items there is a serious decrease to be noted. Machinery shows a heavy decline, which is owing either to diminished requirements or to German competition. The falling off in the demand for jute material (sacking for grain) is partly accounted for by the increased quantity of jute yarn taken to be worked up by local factories. The falling off in the demand for implements is due to the competition of Germany and the United States, while the increase in hardware and cutlery proves that Sheffield still leads the way. This as a whole is not unsatisfactory, but it might have been much better had greater attention been given to cultivating the trade.

"It should be borne in mind that the present boom in our trade, which is largely caused by orders from our wonderful colonies and dependencies, can not be expected to continue. Without colonial orders, and with the loss of business in old markets, the condition of things would be very different from what it is at present. When bad times overtake the colonies, as they have done before, and their orders fall off, then the value and importance of old markets will be manifest. Even if India, China, and the colonies were to continue their orders on the present scale, there is no valid reason why old outlets for trade should be neglected. If the Argentine Republic and other parts are worthy of the attention of our rivals, they are surely deserving of as much care and attention from our manufacturers and merchants who, as a matter of fact, can not afford to neglect any opening for trade. If they do they can not complain if others step in and do the business.

"In addition to the chances and changes and ups and downs of trade with the colonies, there is the possibility of their manufacturing for themselves more extensively than some of them do at present. This is not so remote as might be supposed, for cheap labor can be found in India and China, and there is abundance of coal in New South Wales, China, and Natal, while up-to-date machinery can be purchased here. Therefore it is time that more attention should be paid to every market which is not closed to us, where British manufactures are still preferred when they can be obtained in suitable styles and at reasonable prices. The necessity for price lists and catalogues in the languages of the countries to which they are sent should be recognized and met, and every effort made to ascertain and to supply local wants. Convenience for and economy in transport should also be considered and provided when packing for a market.

"In the Argentine Republic industrial and agricultural machinery, galvanized iron, hoop iron, etc., of British make, are in favor. British-made bicycles are coming into use, but must be quoted lower to command large sales. It is also gratifying to note that the demand for our prize-breeding cattle, horses, and sheep continues and is likely to increase in the Republic.

"One of the chief obstacles to business there is in the unsatisfactory state of the currency, owing to the fluctuations in the value of gold as compared with paper, by means of which most of the internal business is transacted. This must be a source of continual worry and anxiety to the trader, who, if he has sold for gold, will naturally wish for that standard to rise in value, while the merchant, who has sold for paper, will be glad to see the value of paper rise and gold depreciate. The Argentine Republic sadly needs a steady currency."

#### **NEW ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY.**

The Department of State, at Washington, has been informed that the Senate of the Argentine Republic has confirmed the nomination of Dr. EDUARDO WILDE to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary near the Government of the United States. Since the departure of Dr. GARCIA MÉROU, the Argentine Legation has been in the hands of the Chargé d'Affaires.

#### **PRESIDENT ROCA AT THE BUFFALO PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION.**

On December 22, 1899, President JULIO A. ROCA sent a cable message to Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN in response to a communication regarding the participation of the Argentine Republic in the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901. In this the President says: "I have read your letter with great pleasure. The Argentine Republic accepts the invitation to participate in the Exposition, and I may perhaps be your guest at that time."

### EXPORT DUTY ON WOOL.

It would appear from the statements of the newspapers received from the Argentine Republic that the National Congress has increased, or is seriously considering the advisability of raising the export duty on wool. The press, however, generally protests against this, claiming that the Government would, by such procedure, counteract any benefits that possibly might have been derived from the reciprocity treaty with the United States. The "Prensa" says the Congressional committee charged with the revision of the "Tariff of Values" had agreed on December 1, 1899, upon an increase of 50 per cent on the valuation of wools destined for export, which from the 1st of January, 1900, is to be calculated at \$3 gold for each 10 kilos (22.046 pounds), instead of \$2 which has been the valuation in former years. This journal adds:

"As the duty on wools is 4 per cent, the exports from the beginning of next year (1900) will have to pay 12 cents gold per 10 kilos instead of 8 cents which they pay to-day. The increase represents therefore 4 cents per 10 kilos or close upon one-half cent per kilo. If we calculate 230,000 tons the total of the season's crop, taking one with another, it will mean for the next year the exportation of wools will produce \$2,760,000 gold, whereas at an actual valuation it would not bring over \$1,840,000 gold."

### AN ITALIAN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT.

In a contribution to the "Nuova Antologia," Signor PIETRO BARBEIRA has given the people of Italy his impressions with respect to the Argentine Republic and in reference to the influx of Italian population. Signor BARBEIRA has visited the Argentine Republic as well as other countries, and has reached the conclusion that no other land offers more beneficial possibilities for his countrymen than the first named. The climate and political conditions he considers exceptionally favorable. He says the Italians greatly exceed the people of other nationalities, except the natives, and will soon be in excess of them; but, to strengthen this numerical predominance, Signor BARBEIRA is of the opinion that the Italian community should be fortified by the introduction of capital and culture.

Regarding the conditions existing in the Republic, he says: "The period of intestine agitations has ceased, the fever for foolish and immoral speculations has passed, political and legislative action has been brought into sympathy with public opinion, and men have been placed in power who are resolved to purify the political and judicial administrations. In a word, the Argentine Republic is that South American nation to which is reserved the most brilliant of futures, and the Italian element is destined to be predominant."

### MARITIME AND COMMERCIAL MOVEMENT AT LA PLATA.

In a report on the maritime and commercial movement of La Plata in 1898, published in the "Moniteur Officiel," of November 30, 1899, the acting Consul of France says that the two principal ports of the Province of Buenos Ayres are La Plata and Bahia Blanca. The port of La Plata, considered as one of the best in the world, would certainly be the first if the shallow water of the estuary permitted the entrance of vessels exceeding a draft of 24 feet to its wharfs; but its commercial importance is almost eclipsed on account of its proximity to the port of Buenos Ayres (two hours by water and one hour by railway).

Notwithstanding the fact that the tariff duties at La Plata are lower than those at Buenos Ayres, and that a reduction of 25 per cent is made in the anchorage dues, the maritime movement at the former port since 1896 has constantly decreased.

While in 1896, 710 steamers with a capacity of 1,328,863 tons entered the port, in 1898 only 311 entered, with a total capacity of 634,863 tons. This decrease is caused by the proximity of the port of Buenos Ayres, and especially by the collection of a storage duty of 10 *centimes* per ton per day from the moment of the arrival of merchandise in the storehouse, and where it is often obliged to remain from fifteen to thirty days awaiting the arrival of a boat to take it to the port of destination.

This exaction renders this port much inferior to the fiscal or private ports of Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Bahia Blanca, where merchandise destined to be exported is exempt from all storage dues during the first month of its stay in the warehouses. The granting of this privilege enables the exporters to accumulate considerable merchandise in the ports, thus obliging the navigation companies to stop there to take it on board.

The merchandise which was imported by the port of La Plata in 1898, with the exception of a small percentage destined for local consumption, was destined for Buenos Ayres. The export movement is due entirely to the city of Buenos Ayres, where almost all the products of this immense Argentine territory converge by means of a great many railroads and coastwise steamers.

### LEGISLATION ON BEHALF OF THE MILLING INDUSTRY.

For some time past the flour manufacturers of Buenos Ayres and the millers of Santa Fe have been endeavoring to urge the Government to come to their relief and prevent a threatened crisis which will ensue, as is alleged, if new markets are not secured for their excess of production. Up to this time the market of Brazil has been the most important consumer of the Argentine flours, which have had to sustain a vigorous rivalry with flours from the United States, and the claim on the part of the Argentine millers is that the Government of the United States is negotiating to secure for its products special advantages which

would make all rivalry impossible and place the Argentine industry in an unbearable situation. What the millers ask is that the Government should expedite the negotiations for the conclusion of the Treaty of Commerce with Brazil, stipulating that flour from the Argentine Republic shall be on an equal footing with that from other countries in the former nation. They also ask that Argentine flours be exempted from all excessive burdens, and that railroad companies be compelled to adopt equitable modifications in their freight rates, and that encouragement be given to direct lines of navigation to Brazil.

### TREATY WITH REFERENCE TO CATTLE.

In November, 1899, the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Argentine Republic and the Minister Plenipotentiary of Uruguay at Buenos Ayres concluded a treaty *ad referendum* relating to the trade in cattle on the hoof between the two countries. As the executive power of the Argentine Republic already possessed the necessary authority from the National Congress to make the treaty, it will not have to be ratified by that body, but it will need ratification by the Uruguayan Congress.

Pursuant to this treaty the ports in either country through which cattle on the hoof may be imported are: In the Argentine Republic—Buenos Ayres, La Plata, Rosario, Campana, Concepción del Uruguay, Concordia, Monte Caseros, and Gualeguaychú; in Uruguay—Montevideo, Colonia, Mercedes, Santa Rosa, Salto, Fray Bentos, Paysandú, and Maldonado. The treaty includes the regulations governing the export and import of cattle as well as cases in which diseased animals will be rejected or such as are shipped from infected localities. The treaty, should it be rejected by either of the two countries, will nevertheless continue in force for six months longer, save in the case the rejection is due to a cattle epidemic existing in the other country.

### EXPORTS FOR TEN YEARS.

“Handels Zeitung,” of Buenos Ayres, in its issue of November 4, 1899, publishes the following table of principal exports from the Argentine Republic during the past ten years:

Years.	Wheat.	Flour.	Maize.	Linseed.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1889.....	22,806	3,361	432,591	28,196
1890.....	327,894	12,018	707,282	30,721
1891.....	395,555	7,015	65,909	12,213
1892.....	470,110	18,849	445,935	42,987
1893.....	1,008,137	37,921	84,514	72,199
1894.....	1,608,249	40,758	54,876	104,435
1895.....	1,010,269	53,935	772,318	276,443
1896.....	532,001	51,732	1,570,517	229,675
1897.....	101,845	41,443	374,942	162,477
1898.....	645,161	31,933	717,105	158,904

The export of hay during this period increased steadily from 17,000 in 1890 to 113,534 tons in 1898.

The linseed industry in the Argentine Republic has greatly increased in the last ten years. The exports during 1895 were nearly ten times as much as those of 1889. Since the former year, up to 1898, the exports decreased, but this year the crop is reported as very large.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The silkworm industry has been attracting some attention in the Province of Cordoba, where the climatic conditions are stated to be favorable. Señor VINCENTE BARILLARI, an enthusiast on the subject, believes that a great future is reserved for this industry, and is offering to furnish silkworm eggs gratis and to give instructions to any person willing to begin breeding them.

The Argentine Republic has shipped a large number of horses to the British in South Africa. Eight hundred of these are reported to have come from the national breeding farm and to have been presented to Great Britain.

The grain export from January 1 to October 5, 1899, is given by the "Prensa" as 2,110,000 tons of wheat and 860,000 tons of maize, as against 880,000 tons of wheat and 700,000 tons of maize in the previous year.

Admiral CORDERO, whose service in the Argentine Navy began in the year 1835, died in Buenos Ayres on November 30, 1899, at the age of 81.

The Government recently signed a decree authorizing the management of the viticultural school at Mendoza to make experiments in the cultivation of hemp, devoting to the same 10 *hectares* of land.

The Hamburg-South American Steamship Company has increased its carrying capacity by 13,956 tons. The following steamers are now employed: *Duke*, *Dorothea*, *Helene*, and *Sophia Rickmers*.

The Territory of Altacama is to be officially surveyed and a reliable map of the country published. The cost of this work is estimated at between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

A telegram from Buenos Ayres states that the total wool product will amount to 225,000 tons. The wool is of better quality than last year's, and 60 per cent of it has already been sold.

The "Südamerikanische Rundschau" states that a large syndicate is to be formed in Buenos Ayres for the purpose of controlling the entire export business to Paraguay.

On December 26, 1899, the United States Patent Office granted a patent to JACOB G. AESCHBACHER, of Rosario, Argentine Republic, for a firearm.

An arbitration treaty between the Argentine Republic and Paraguay was signed at Asunción in December, 1899.

The Palmero (Buenos Ayres) Brewery has declared a dividend of 13.68 per cent.

The steamship *Hildur*, which sailed on January 12 from the port of New York, took \$1,000,000 gold to Buenos Ayres.

The Entre Rios Railway has declared a dividend of 2 per cent and the Argentine Western Railway one of 5 per cent.

The German Government has appointed a Technical Attaché of its legation in the Argentine Republic.

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## BOLIVIA.

### MINING PROGRESS AND PRODUCTION.

According to the latest accounts the high value now prevailing for tin has greatly stimulated that industry in Bolivia. Especially in the Uyuni district has tin mining been making great progress. The exports of tin ore for the year 1899 are estimated to have been between 6,000 and 7,000 tons and an increase is anticipated during the year 1900. Difficulties of transportation are alone responsible for the fact that the Bolivian tin product is not from 100 to 200 per cent greater.

Although copper veins containing almost pure ore have been traced almost uninterruptedly from the north to the south of the Republic, the cost of conveying the ore to the seashore has hitherto limited production. At present copper is only worked in a very primitive fashion at Corocoro, near Lake Titicaca. Other great drawbacks are lack of fuel and scarcity of capital, thus preventing the opening of the mines in a scientific manner. In 1897 the four companies working in the Corocoro district produced 2,912,500 kilos of copper, and the annual exportations for several years past has averaged 3,000 tons. The shipments were to Europe, passing through the port of Molendo, Peru. If, as is asserted, the Corocoro district is the equal or better than the Lake Superior copper district in the United States, foreign capitalists should interest themselves in its exploitation.

Such minerals as antimony, borax, and bismuth are to be found in large quantities in Bolivia, but in these, as well as in other products, the absence of transportation facilities interfere with their production and exportation except in very limited amounts. They are mined in the primitive methods employed a century ago.

Rich alluvial and quartz deposits of gold are known to exist in a number of localities, some of which are above the line of perpetual snow. The climate and other natural obstacles have interfered hereto-



fore with any practical methods of gold mining. The natives say that, if they could accurately convey to the people of America just what are the possibilities in gold mining in Bolivia, the Klondike regions would be abandoned and the rush of miners would be to their own country instead. No accurate information of the yield of gold can be obtained, but at present there is a considerable quantity of gold recovered by the Indians in river beds. The quartz ledges have not been touched for the want of proper machinery and competent miners to direct such operations.

Laborers for mining work can be obtained at wages ranging from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  *bolivianos* (\$0.66 United States currency) to 4 *bolivianos* (\$1.76) per day, according to the class of work to be performed.

#### COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Consul-General of Bolivia at New York reports that the exports of the United States merchandise to Bolivia during the second half of the year 1899 were as follows:

Month.	Packages.	Value.
July.....	476	\$5,527.77
August.....	715	11,010.86
September.....	1,342	18,323.09
October.....	874	15,926.24
November.....	983	18,980.10
December.....	1,392	20,670.42
Total.....	5,782	90,438.48

#### SURVEYS OF PROJECTED RAILWAYS.

In November last the President of Bolivia sent a special message to Congress regarding extensions of the railroad from Antofogasta to Oruro and transmitting a bill for the consideration of Congress. This bill is to the effect that the Executive be authorized to order the preliminary and final surveys of the following lines: The extension of the Argentine Central to Potosí; the branch line from Challapata to Colquechaca; the branch line from Oruro to Cochabamba; the line from Lake Titicaca to Oruro; for which purpose the President suggests that the sum of 120,000 *bolivianos* be appropriated. Pursuant to the law of October 18, 1890, the bill provides for authority to be given to the Executive to contract for the construction of the lines named, granting a guarantee of 6 per cent on the capital invested. The bill also provides that the Executive shall determine the gauge, tariffs, and everything connected with the construction and operation of the projected lines.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The "Deutsche Nachrichten" refers to an important undertaking in Valparaiso in the formation of the Compañía Minera Mercedes de Oruro, which is to have its headquarters in Iquique, for the purpose of work-

ing the mines near the well-known Oruro mines, San José and Virgen. They belong to ex-President ALONSO, of Bolivia, and Mr. MARIANO MACKENSIE DENNY.

The first of a large number of Japanese subjects who have been contracted for to work in the mines of Satabaya recently arrived in Bolivia.

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## BRAZIL.

### COFFEE PROPAGANDA IN ENGLAND.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to Senhor DE ASSIS BRASIL, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Brazil to the United States, for the following article, which is translated from the "Jornal do Comercio" (Rio de Janeiro) of October 3, 1899:

"The firm of GAFFRÉE AND GUINLA, which is interested both in our market and in that of Santos, and deeply concerned in preventing the further lowering of prices for our coffee, has tried to find some means by which to advance the interests of our principal product. For this purpose, Mr. GABRIEL PINTO DA MOTTA, who does business in Brazil and in England, was requested to study the condition of our product in that great market. As a result, Mr. MOTTA presented a communication on the consumption of coffee in England, which is included in the article published in the report of the Minister of Finance, Dr. BERNARDINO DE CAMPOS, entitled 'The Coffee.'

"In this inquiry, after a very accurate analysis, which is based upon comparative statistics concerning the consumption of coffee, tea, and cocoa in England since the year 1840, and a statement of the reasons for the depreciation of our coffee as compared with that of other countries, the author arrives at the following conclusions:

"Taking into consideration the various opinions that have been given on this subject up to date, as well as the personal observations which I have made on the coffee trade in this country, be it either green, roasted, or ground coffee with which the consumers are supplied, and strengthened furthermore in my own experience by the statements of people who are well acquainted with the export trade of coffee, I may say to those cultivating coffee in Brazil:

"Evidences demonstrate that good qualities of coffee bring excellent prices in the markets of England, and it is therefore absolutely necessary that all coffees should arrive properly separated and divided or classified in such a manner that they, in the near future, can be known by their respective designations or qualities, as well as by the place from which they come.

"Furthermore, it is absolutely necessary that the coffee be gathered

and prepared with the greatest care, giving it, if possible, the color that is most appreciated.

“The coffee that is exported to this country must be mixed in order to bring a fair price, but the result is unfavorable in any case, since the mixing is done by the large buyers, be they simply coffee roasters or others. The Brazilian coffee, when it arrives in this market, only serves as a basis for all sorts of mixtures and is sold to the consumer under other more or less well-known names. In Liverpool a party visiting a coffee roasting establishment was shown a mixture of ground Brazilian coffee and the most inferior quality of African coffee. In 1897, 1,450 tons of Brazilian coffee were shipped for consumption, but not a single pound of that was sold under its true designation.

“The tea trade is based upon this very same process of mixing, so that any wholesale or retail merchant deals in his own “special blend,” and lowers its standard until it frequently reaches the limits of the most grotesque charlatanism. In this is to be found the whole secret of the coffee, tea, and cocoa trade of the country.

“It is therefore necessary that the Brazilian coffee planters should keep in view this very peculiar system from which they may derive great benefits, especially if they export the article directly from their own plantations. In London the coffee is also improved upon; that is, the beans go there unshelled, and when they have received the baptism of “London cleaned” they find better quotations. For me this is a way of doing business like any other, and it is carried on in London as well as in the producing countries, according to the divisions of labor.

“The colors and different forms of the coffee beans also indicate more or less its quality, and for this reason I will state some particulars concerning the commercial varieties of coffee most in favor in London and Liverpool, availing myself for this purpose of some information taken from the “*Monographia do Café*,” by PAULO PORTO ALEGRE, published in 1879.

“*Jamaica*.—Beans of regular size and sometimes very large, a little oval, of a very uniform light-green color, smooth, clean surface, and without skin.

“*Mysora*.—The bean is rounded, generally short and wide, of a grayish-green, very small, without skin when of the first gathering, larger and not quite as round as the Mocha bean.

“*Costa Rica*.—The bean is pretty similar to that of Java, thick and oblong, of a yellowish and sometimes greenish color.

“*Malabar*.—Characteristics like those of the Mysora brand.

“The different brands of Mocha coffee are in favor here and always bring good prices when they are nicely finished and of a bluish-green color.”

“After studying this work, the firm of GAFFRÉE AND GUINLE decided to intrust Mr. MOTTA with the organization of a coffee com-

pany in London, and this gentleman made a trip through the interior of São Paulo in the interest of this concern, in order to study the cultivation, preparation, and finishing processes of our product, and after completing his investigations he went to Santos to gather some additional information, obtaining from the well-known merchant, Mr. FRANCISCO DE PAULA RIBEIRO, the remittance of a number of coffee samples of the State of São Paulo for the London market.

"In the same place Mr. MOTTA made arrangements with Baron DE QUARTIN, who also kindly consented to send him a complete collection of coffee samples of the States of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Geraes.

"At the end of last year Mr. MOTTA went to England for the purpose of organizing and incorporating a company which had the object to establish the trade in green, roasted, and ground coffees in London and other cities.

"This company, under the name of 'Motta's Brazilian Coffee Company, Limited,' has already been legally registered in London and started its first establishment in the same city. The first is located at 178 Goswell Road, E. C., in a new building of fine appearance, entirely illuminated both inside and out with electric light. On the ground floor are sales rooms for roasted, ground, and green coffees, and a show window containing samples of green coffee; also a coffee mill, worked by electricity, which receives the roasted coffee, right before the public, through a glass tube located on the first floor. In that place are to be found the most practical coffee machines on the market, as well as portable coffee mills for kitchen use. The coffee is sent to the houses of customers by elegant tricycles. On the first floor is the motor room, supplying electric power to all the different machinery, the coffee mill, storerooms of roasted coffee, both in the bean and ground, with an assortment of tins and square bags bearing the trade-mark and name of the company. On the second floor are the roasting, cooling, and ventilating rooms. Daily output, 1,000 kilos in eight working hours—fuel for the roasters, gas. On the third floor are: Stock rooms, for coffee beans, machinery for the finishing and improving processes, separating the beans according to sizes for roasting. All three floors are supplied with freight elevators. This may be considered a 'model establishment' in that country, because, up to date, there does not exist another equal to it.

"The second establishment is located at 116 Bishopsgate Without E. C., in a fine new building lighted by electricity, inside and out with dry, well-aired and well-lighted cellars for storerooms. Ground floor: Store, same as on Goswell Road; first floor, two large rooms and the office of the company; second floor, two large rooms and toilet room, etc. The first two large rooms are intended for a permanent exhibition of Brazilian coffee, and those on the second floor will be fitted up and used as a 'bureau of information' concerning Brazil, for which purpose the Governments of the Brazilian Union and States will be requested

to send maps, reports, custom tariffs and railway schedules, monographs on coffee, books on the social, political, and financial situation in Brazil, geographies, in short, all that may in any way be useful in this respect, as, for instance, papers, reviews, all of which must be entirely free from political bias. In the show window there will be posted every day a bulletin, giving the details of the movement of the coffee received at Santos and Rio, as compared with that of the last crop.

"These establishments were opened October 2, 1899, as stated by the following telegram received from London on October 3:

"We opened yesterday the establishment of the Motta's Brazilian Coffee Company, Limited."

"Together with the trade of green, roasted, and ground coffees in which it is interested, the Motta's Coffee Company, Limited, will also make an active propaganda for our product, for this company, as its name indicates, will not sell any other than Brazilian coffees in its establishments. The extent of this propaganda will depend on the aid given the Motta's Brazilian Coffee Company, Limited, by those who are interested in the coffee trade."

In this connection the "British Trade Journal" of October 1, 1899, says that the proposal is being made in London "that the coffee planters of the world should take a leaf out of the book so successfully studied by the tea planters of Ceylon. The coffee planter is at present suffering from low prices and the proposal referred to seeks to remedy this state of things by increasing the demand for coffee in Great Britain and in other countries where the consumption per head is still small." The MONTHLY BULLETIN for May, 1899, gives the per capita consumption of coffee in different countries as follows: Holland, 23 pounds per annum; Denmark, 15; Belgium, 11; United States, 9.95; Germany, 5.25; France, 3.25; Great Britain, 0.70.

"The new movement has for its object the formation of an association to supply funds for the purpose of pushing the sale of coffee and educating the public in its preparation and use by the well-known means so successfully adopted in connection with Indian and Ceylon tea." It is generally believed that such a propaganda will result in the increased consumption of coffee in England.

"Coffee Statistics, 1899-1900," by the C. J. Luch Company, of London, contains a number of statistical tables relating to the trade of the world, and especially European countries, in coffee. The large European coffee markets are London, Havre, Hamburg, the Dutch ports, Trieste, Antwerp, Bordeaux, and Marseille. Estimates for the current year, ending June 30, 1900, show a production of 15,285,000 bags of 132½ pounds each. Of this total, 10,500,000 bags are credited to Brazil—6,000,000 to Santos, 3,750,000 to Rio, and the remainder to other Brazilian ports. The estimated production of Mexico and the Central American States together is 1,500,000 bags; Venezuela and Colombia, 1,250,000; the West Indies (chiefly Haiti, Cuba, Puerto Rico),

550,000; Java, 650,000; British India and Manila, which are classed together, 300,000; Africa and Arabia, 250,000; Sumatra, Ceylon, and the Eastern Archipelago furnishing the small remainder.

### NEW CUSTOMS TARIFF.

On November 22, 1899, "Law 651" was enacted, which refers particularly to the customs and inland revenue tariffs. The law took effect on January 1, 1900. The amount to be paid in gold on imports was increased 5 per cent. As regards those articles for which the rates have not been altered, there is an all-around increase of duties in consequence of the extra payment in gold. This is equivalent to 11.1 per cent, calculated at 7 pence per milreis. On the other hand, there are a number of articles on which the duties have been reduced, for some of which the duties payable in 1900 are, in spite of the extra 5 per cent in gold, lower than the present tariff. These articles, according to the "Brazilian Review," are included in the appended table, the \$ mark representing milreis, the figures following the mark being so many thousandths of a *milreis*. A *milreis* equals 1,000 *reis*, and at the value of the present rate of exchange is approximately 14.5 cents United States currency. The per cent of reduction is also given.

	Per kilo.	Per cent.
Paper makers' shovels .....	\$612	46.2
Tramway harness .....	4\$528	7.3
Sardines .....	\$171	16.6
Wheat flour .....	\$002	5.3
Champagne .....	\$927	28.8
Hydrochloric acid:		
Pure .....	\$021	10.9
Impure .....	\$043	32.8
Sulphuric acid:		
Pure .....	\$021	10.9
Impure .....	\$021	32.8
Mineral waters .....	\$143	22.4
Children's wooden cots .....	1\$132	7.3
Sulphur in bars .....	\$012	46.2
Cotton:		
In pod .....	\$114	44.4
Raw .....	\$071	11.1
Wool, combed, etc. ....	\$142	11.1
Thread .....	\$484	14.5
Cotton textiles, from 40 to 75 grams per square meter ..	\$025	.5
Cotton textiles, from 75 to 100 grams per square meter ..	\$082	1.8
Cotton textiles, from 100 upward .....	\$064	1.2
Cotton textiles, fancy, with open threads, 800 grams per square meter ..	1\$266	4.7
Hessians .....	\$035	3.6
Binding cloth .....	\$142	11.0
Hessian bags .....	\$142	11.0
Cardboard, not specified .....	\$114	44.4
Clay images or statuettes .....	\$139	2.7
Bits and bridles .....	\$512	16.6
Winding dolls .....	\$852	11.0
Unspecified dolls .....	\$427	16.6
Dynamite .....	\$242	14.5
Asbestos, manufactured .....	\$099	5.9
Bottled beer .....	\$249	25.8
Hydromel, cider or ginger ale, etc., in bottles .....	\$200	25.9
Liqueurs:		
In barrel .....	\$355	11.0
Bottled .....	\$927	28.8
Gin, in barrel .....	\$457	44.4
Bitters .....	\$085	16.5
Common wines:		
To 14°, not in cask .....	\$199	38.7
14° to 24° .....	\$214	41.6
Over 24° .....	\$200	26.4
Common unrefined salt .....	\$002	4.4

On the following articles the rates will be the same owing to the increase created by the collection of 5 per cent additional in gold, otherwise there would have been a reduction:

	Per kilo.	Per cent.
Brooms, with handles.....	\$854	6.0
Cotton:		
Unbleached.....	\$021	3.0
Bleached.....	\$009	1.0
Dyed.....	\$032	.4
Silk gauze.....	\$596	1.9
Silk trimmings.....	2\$622	4.2

The duty on the following imported articles has been raised: Sheep and goats, from 3\$ to 4\$; dried and jerked beef, from 100 to 120 *reis*; beans, from 40 to 60 *reis*; Indian corn, from 20 to 30 *reis*; potatoes, from 20 to 40 *reis*; common tallow, 200 *reis*; earthenware, from 3,700 to 4,000 *reis*; glass bottles, from 100 to 150 *reis*; glassware, from 600 to 700 *reis*; glassware, fine, from 1,000 to 1,200 *reis*; hats, felt, from 2,000 to 6,400 *reis*; hats, other kinds, from 4,800 to 5,600 *reis*; woolen cloth, from 7,200 to 8,000 *reis*.

The new tariff law provides that after March 1, 1900, only goods from Portugal will be admitted to Brazilian ports which have labels printed in the Portuguese language. Goods manufactured for the Brazilian markets in other countries must be labeled in the language of those countries.

From January 1, 1900, the proportion of custom-house duties which must be paid in gold has been fixed at 15 per cent instead of 10, as formerly. Moreover, all goods destined for Brazil will have from the same date, January 1, to be accompanied by consular invoices. From the same day also the minimum tariff is applied. As to the maximum tariff, its application is postponed to March 1 on account of certain diplomatic discussions. It is therefore incorrect to state, as has been done in a cable dispatch from Rio Janeiro dated January 7, that several of the foreign Ministers have "protested" against the differential duties. Nothing has been decided in an absolute manner, and a friendly discussion is going on instead of a protest having been entered against the new duties. The question of a lowering of duties in France on the coffees brought from Brazil is not yet decided by the French Chamber, and that decision will exercise a great influence over the application of the Brazilian maximum tariff in March.

#### IMPORTATIONS OF FLOUR.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received a communication from Mr. THOMAS C. DAWSON, Secretary of the United States Legation at Rio de Janeiro, giving the statistics of the trade in flour in the Brazilian Republic. According to the "Monthly Summary of the Bull. No. 1—2

United States Treasury Department" for 1898 the exports of wheat flour from United States ports to Brazil during that year were 707,025 barrels. The exports to Brazil for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, were 818,816 barrels. No statistics on the subject have been published by the Brazilian Government for 1898, but for 1899 an effort is being made to collect and publish the figures relating to certain importations, of which flour is one.

Mr. DAWSON says that, according to the statistics already gathered, the total imports of flour for the first three months of 1899 were 302,730 barrels, but the quantities coming from the several countries are not specified. With regard to the port of Rio more detailed figures are given. During the first eight months of 1899 there passed through the custom-house at Rio 197,830 barrels, of which the United States supplied 111,870; the Argentine Republic, 66,800; Uruguay, 17,090; Austria, 1,475; Great Britain, 388; Germany, 194, and France 11. If the same proportion continued for the eight months ending August 31 that existed between Rio and the other ports for the three months ending March 31, the total flour imports into Brazil for that period are estimated by Mr. DAWSON to have been 900,000 barrels.

Estimating the imports of 1898 at four times those for the first quarter of 1899, there were received that year 1,212,000 barrels, and of this quantity, as has been stated, 707,025 came from the United States. Mr. DAWSON estimates that of the remainder, 495,000 barrels, came from the River Plate regions, and 10,000 barrels from Austria, Great Britain, Italy, and Germany, in proportions impossible to ascertain, but the probable rank of the countries is in the order named.

Mr. DAWSON further says that substantially the same results as to the relative amounts of flour received from the United States, as compared with the imports from the River Plate countries, were reached by him in taking the reports of the imports at the several Brazilian ports in connection with information furnished by the trade as to which countries supplied the bulk of the flour at each port. In addition to the flour imported, there were 600,000 barrels of flour manufactured in Rio de Janeiro out of wheat imported from abroad during the year 1898.

#### SCARCITY OF IPECACUANHA.

Ipecacuanha, a description of which was given in the MONTHLY BULLETIN of July, 1899, was first introduced into Europe near the end of the seventeenth century, about 1672, by a French doctor named LEGRAS, but it was only a century later that its use became general in France, Germany, England, and other countries, when LOUIS XIV paid to ADRIEN HELVÉTIUS, a Dutch doctor of Reims, 1,000 gold *louis* for the secret of the preparation of this remedy.

Brazil seems to be the only home for the true ipecacuanha, the western part of the State of Matto Grosso being particularly adapted to its



cultivation. Varieties are found in the forests of upper Paraguay and also in several other South American countries, but they are of inferior quality. The ipecacuanha of Brazil is known under the name of Rio ipecacuanha (reshipment port); the other ipecacuanhas are known commercially as the Cartagena and Mollendo varieties.

The English have vainly attempted to introduce the cultivation of this product into their colonies; the attempts not proving successful, Brazil remains the only producer of this valuable shrub.

The methods of gathering the ipecacuanha are little short of criminal, and unless some legislation is enacted for preserving the plants, as was done in regard to gathering rubber, it will not be long before they will become extinct. The shrub is dug up by the roots and no attempt made at replanting the sprouts; consequently the shipments to commercial markets are decreasing in importance each year and the prices are increasing. Thus, in 1897 the price in Europe was 16.50 *francs* the kilo (2.2046 pounds), but in 1898 it rose successively to 18, 20, 22, and 24 *francs*. In the beginning of 1899 the price was 30 *francs* the kilo, and rapidly rose to 49.50 *francs* at the end of June of that year. The prices will be maintained at the present high figures with the exception of slight and unimportant variations, for no similar product exists to replace the good qualities of ipecacuanha.

The cultivation of this plant presents unlimited possibilities and the lands can be had at extremely low prices, for the State of Matto Grosso greatly favors colonization; the climate is hot, yet in other ways is healthy.

The Belgians and English have formed very important companies for the exploitation of rubber, and it can be safely said that it will not be long before the cultivation of ipecacuanha will attract their capital.

#### FINANCIAL STATUS OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

The message of the President of the State of Rio Grande do Sul shows that the financial situation of that State continues to be good. Without increasing the taxes in any manner the receipts are increasing, which admits of the gradual payment of the public debt, and at the same time leaves a considerable balance. The following table is a statement of receipts for the years mentioned:

	Milreis.		Milreis.
1889.....	2,340,181.477	1894.....	6,524,722.118
1890.....	2,621,716.118	1895.....	8,235,673.437
1891.....	3,454,129.422	1896.....	8,302,219.553
1892.....	4,224,173.794	1897.....	9,635,516.341
1893.....	6,290,881.640	1898.....	10,819,718.535

The estimated receipts for 1898 were 8,540,200 *milreis*, whereas actually they were 2,279,518.535 *milreis* in excess of the estimate.

The export duties alone were 4,398,814.454 *milreis*, an increase of

1,598,814,550 *milreis* over the estimate and 770,098,454 *milreis* more than the receipts for 1897. The following is a statement of exports by years:

	Milreis.		Milreis.
1889.....	18, 240, 617. 037	1894.....	40, 873, 160. 667
1890.....	17, 260, 724. 471	1895.....	41, 474, 835. 326
1891.....	27, 469, 410. 069	1896.....	40, 587, 868. 671
1892.....	38, 823, 844. 659	1897.....	52, 936, 225. 651
1893.....	40, 670, 120. 764	1898.....	62, 563, 129. 712

The expenditures during the fiscal year 1898 amounted to 10,256,696.442 *milreis*, of which 8,325,089,207 were for ordinary and 1,931,607,235 for extraordinary expenses. The State debt, which in 1897 amounted to 4,502,000 *milreis*, was reduced by 336,750 *milreis* in 1898.

In the present period the sum of 350,000 *milreis* has been allotted for payment on account of the debt, so that the total debt on December 31, 1899, will amount to 3,815,250 *milreis*. In the first six months of 1899 the receipts were 4,273,074,014 *milreis* and the expenditures 363,877.367 *milreis* or 634,202,647 less than estimated for.

The receipts and expenditures for 1900 are estimated as follows:

	Milreis
Receipts.....	9, 745, 700. 000
Expenditures .....	9, 667, 662. 591
Balance .....	78, 037. 409

#### FRENCH AGITATION REGARDING DIFFERENTIAL TARIFFS.

The Society of Merchants and Commission Merchants, or *commissaires*, in France, has called the attention of the Ministry to the action of the Brazilian Government regarding attempts to modify existing commercial or tariff treaties. They have also appealed to other industrial or commercial associations in France to aid the efforts of the society named, and a circular has been sent out explaining the effect upon the French trade of the new Brazilian tariff. The circular says that "the injury which would result from the suppression of 60,000,000 (and sometimes 90,000,000) *francs*, representing the annual amount of business with Brazil, would be much greater, since it bears mainly upon manufactured articles upon which the labor cost figures for the largest proportion; that is, from 40,000,000 to 45,000,000 *francs*. The workmen, therefore, not only in Paris but also in the Provinces, would have to suffer greatly. The "Society of Industrials and Merchants of France" decides, in consequence, not only to maintain, but also to develop the agitation already existing with regard to the promulgation of a new Brazilian tariff which charges differential duties of from 40 to 50 per cent upon French articles. It appoints, besides, a delegation of five of its members to act with the Government or with the Parliament, in order to establish between the Brazilian and the French Republics, which have always been bound by friendly relations, equitable and profitable relations of a commercial character."

According to the "Gazeta do Noticias" the French Government collected in 1898, by taxation on Brazilian products introduced into that country, a total of 50,753,044 *francs*. Of this sum 45,442,488 *francs* were derived from coffee, 5,298,800 *francs* from cacao, and 18,758 *francs* from tapioca. On the other hand, the Brazilian Government collected from French products 20,000 *contos*, or less than 25,000,000 *francs*, and, although the imports introduced from France are principally articles of luxury, the duties imposed amounted to not more than 47 per cent of their value. France, however, imposes upon coffee, an article of food, as much as 250 per cent of its current selling price.

#### NEW SPANISH STEAMSHIP LINE.

Foreign advices state that on January 27, 1900, the Spanish Transatlantic Steamship Company of Barcelona will inaugurate a new service of steamers between Liverpool and Pauillac, Brazil, the River Plate ports and the Pacific ports as far as Valparaiso, returning by the same route to Pauillac and Liverpool. The other ports of call will be Corunna, Vigo, Oporto, Lisbon, Cadiz, Las Palmas, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo, Punta Arenas, Coronel, and Valparaiso.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The British Government has advised the Minister of Foreign Affairs that a change in its consular service in Brazil has been resolved upon, and that the Consul at Pernambuco has been raised to the position of Consul-General, with jurisdiction over Alagoas, Parahiba, Rio Grande do Norte, Ceará, and Piauí. The Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro has jurisdiction over the States of Rio de Janeiro, Minas Geraes, Espírito Santo, and Matto Grosso.

A syndicate has been formed under the auspices of the firm of ARTHUR KOPPEL & Co., in Berlin, to secure the means for the preliminary work upon the railroad, Blumenau-Aquidaban. This syndicate has obtained the KOUREAU concession (Saguassu-Joinville-Blumenau), and will undertake the building of both lines of the railway at the same time. It is expected that the work will commence in January, 1900.

During the last four years the Brazilian Government imported from Germany: Four war ships, 30 batteries of KRUPP'S cannon, a large amount of material for the fortifications of the ports, a floating crane (which alone cost 5,000,000 marks), the principal part of the ammunition for its army, and a great deal of material for the rebuilding of the fortresses, all of which was paid for in cash.

On November 21, 1900, a contract was signed by which the "Great Western of Brazil Railway Company" agrees to complete and operate a branch line from Timbanba to Pilar, in the State of Parahiba, which will unite that railway with the Conde d'eu line. This section forms

part of the system recommended a number of years ago by a prominent government engineer.

Dr. VAN KROATZ, son of a German gentleman of the same name, has been appointed to take charge of the Geological Department at Pará of the State Government. He purposes to explore the vast Amazon Valley with a view to obtaining reliable data in respect to its characteristic meteorological and climatic conditions.

The Ministry of Industry has advised the Minister of Marine that the Rio de Janeiro Harbor and Dock Company, Limited, will inaugurate work on the port improvements in that port, on December 4, 1899. The work will begin on the south side of Cobras Island, which is a dependency of the Marine Department.

The lowest bid for furnishing 120,000 tons of Cardiff coal to the Brazilian Central Railway for the year 1900 was at the rate of 29s., 6d. per ton, and the highest at the rate of 37s. There was a bid to furnish United States coal at 26s. 6d. per ton, but it does not appear to have been accepted.

The Inspector-General of Public Health has resolved to permit foreign vessels bound for Santos to receive foodstuffs in other Brazilian ports for transportation to Santos. The coastwise traffic is prohibited to foreign vessels by the Constitution.

The Government has issued a decree permitting Engineer CARVALHO E. SOUZA and Contractor J. AUGUSTO VIEIRA to build a railway from Sao Popemba to the Island of Gobernador, where they will construct a wharf for loading and discharging vessels.

The Japanese Minister in Rio de Janeiro is desirous of encouraging the immigration into Brazil of a number of his countrymen and he recently made a trip to São Paulo in connection with this subject.

The export of Brazilian coffee to Italy has increased in the last decade tenfold and amounts at present to 120,000 sacks per annum, notwithstanding that the duty on coffee in Italy is almost prohibitive.

Large coal deposits are reported to have been discovered in the State of Minas Geraes near Araguary, the development of which is in the hands of an English concern.

The "Gaceta do Noticias" of Rio de Janeiro brings information that a syndicate with a capital of \$1,000,000 has been formed for the purpose of erecting a paper factory in Paraná.

According to the "Diario Popular" of São Paulo, the Santos section of the Viaçao Paulista (tramways) has been sold to a foreign syndicate for over 2,000,000 *milreis*.

It is stated that a new bank is to be opened in Pará, with a capital of 10,000 *contos*, the greater part of which has been taken by European capitalists.

The President has ordered the transfer to Havre of the Brazilian Consul-General in France. The post at Paris is hereafter to be only a consulate.

During the fiscal year 1897-98, 644,638 grains of gold, valued at \$2,384,759, were obtained from the mines of Passagen, State of Minas Geraes.

The Directors of the Brazilian-German Bank have declared a dividend of 12 per cent, and have turned 200,000 *marks* into the special reserve fund.

The city of Campinas is reported to have ordered engines and other material for its fire department from Germany.

The United States Patent Office on January 9, 1900, issued a patent on a steam turbine to JOHN BURGUM, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The municipality of Braganca has determined to throw open to competition the electric lighting for the city.

According to the "Province do Pará" a bank is to be formed with a European capital of 10,000,000 of *contos*.

A recent telegram states that a German syndicate has purchased the San Cristobal Railway.

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## CHILE.

### PROPOSED NEW LINE OF RAILWAY.

The "Chilean Times" of November 25, 1899, says there has just been promulgated an act of Congress granting to JAVIER ARLEGUI RODRIGUEZ and VALENTIN LAMBERT powers to construct and operate a line of railway from Peumo Station to the main southern line at Las Cabras. The plans for the line are to be submitted to the Government within six months from November 18, 1899, and the line is to be completed and ready for traffic within eighteen months after the approval of the plans.

### DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR NOTES.

The treaty of extradition negotiated with the Republic of Ecuador in 1897 was ratified by Chile and went into operation on October 1, 1899. It will terminate in ten years.

The Chilean Council of State has approved the Arbitration Treaty between Chile and Brazil.

It is reported that Señor D. JOAQUIN GODOY is to be appointed Chilean Minister to Brazil.

The resignation of Mr. AQUILES MANHEIM as Chilean Consul in the city of Chicago has been accepted by the Government at Valparaiso.

Mr. REMIJIO CRESPO TORAL has been appointed Chilean Consul at Cuenca, Ecuador.

The following Consular Representatives have been recognized by the Chilean Government: Mr. JULIO ISAACS, as Colombian Consul at Valparaiso; Mr. T. MENCHACA, as Belgian Consul in Concepcion; Mr. H. FABRY, as Belgian Consul at Valparaiso; Mr. JOAQUIN A. O. BOTELHO, as Brazilian Consul at Valparaiso, and Mr. ADELBERT OSTERLOH, as Consul for Austria-Hungary in Tacna and Arica.

The resignation of Mr. JAMES S. ZACHARIE, as Chilean Consul at New Orleans, has been accepted.

Mr. J. ENRIQUE CONCHA SUBERCASEAUX has been appointed attaché of the Chilean Legation in Paris.

Mr. ISIDRO JIMENEZ FERNANDEZ has been accepted as Vice-Consul for Ecuador at Punta Arenas.

#### SHIPMENTS OF WHEAT IN NINE MONTHS.

During the first nine months of 1899 the exports of wheat amounted to 65,000,000 kilograms, sent to the following countries: England, 49,900 kilograms; Peru, 15,030,740 kilograms; and Germany, 55,000 kilograms. During the year 1898, 60,936,000 kilograms of wheat were exported as follows: England, 50,386,240 kilograms; Peru, 10,398,400 kilograms; Germany, 31,500 kilograms; and Brazil, 145,000 kilograms.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

It is reported that the Chilean Government has sent several medical experts to Asunción, Paraguay, to make a study of the disease, supposed to be the plague, which is prevailing there. Dr. MALIBRAN, of the Argentine Republic, who was sent to Paraguay by his Government, has reported to the Chilean physicians that the disease is not of a virulent type. Nevertheless, the Chilean Government is reported to have secured from Europe a thousand vials of bubonic serum to be used as a preventive.

In an article on the world's production of wine a statement appears that in America Chile is the leading wine producer, being credited with 2,500,000 hectoliters; the Argentine Republic coming next with 1,600,000; Brazil, 450,000, and Uruguay fourth with 70,000. The same article credits the United States with a production of 1,300,000 hectoliters.

The Chilean press has recently been discussing the question of import duties on live stock from the Argentine Republic. It is urged that any concessions should be reciprocal. That is to say, if Chile reduces the duty on cattle imported from the Argentine Republic, the latter country should reduce the import duty on some Chilean products—preferably on wines.

The “*Deutsche Nachrichten*” is authority for the statement that work upon the electric railways in the city of Santiago is now proceeding rapidly. The company is under contract to have 15 kilometers completed by the first of February, 1900, but there will be three times that much finished on that date. In seven years 700 kilometers must be in working order.

Mr. DARIO ZAÑARTU has been appointed Director-General of the State railways in place of Señor RAMON GARCIA, deceased. The new Director has held, at different times, the positions of Minister to Bolivia, member of the Tribunal of Accounts, sub-Director and Director *ad interim* of the Auditor's Office, and Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Industry and Public Works has in view the establishment of a national factory for the constructing of the rails and other material for the Government railroads at an expense of 2,500,000 pesos.

The receipts of the custom-house at Iquique for the month of October amounted to \$4,483,996 (national currency), for duties on saltpeter, in which month 79,113,783 kilograms were exported.

A commission has been named by the Government to inquire into the condition of the pier of Talcahuano. This harbor is reported to be in great danger owing to drifting sand.

According to a telegram from Valparaiso, the commission appointed by the Minister of Finance has declined to recommend the increase in the circulation of paper money.

According to the “*Südamerikanische Rundschau*,” the President of Chile has proposed the reduction of the army to 5,885 men and that of the navy to 4,590 men.

A syndicate has been formed in Santiago with a capital of £80,000 for the purpose of working the recently discovered petroleum wells in Punta Arenas.

It is stated that a sugar factory is to be erected in Valdivia by Messrs. DANERI & Co., and that the necessary machinery is now being imported.

The “*Argentinische Wochenblatt*” states that the number of German instructors in the Chilean army is to be increased.

## COLOMBIA.

## GOVERNMENT CATTLE MONOPOLY.

A decree has been promulgated by the Colombian Government making the slaughter of cattle and the sale of the meat a Government monopoly. It prohibits all owners of cattle from selling meat except to employees of the Government, under a penalty of \$100 for each head of cattle sold. The reason of this step is the necessity for an increase in the revenue. The Consul-General of the United States reports that it is believed that the order will go into effect at once.

## INCORPORATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY.

The Panama Canal Company of America, with an authorized capital of \$30,000,000, was inaugurated in Trenton, New Jersey, on December 27, 1899. The object of the company, as shown by the articles of incorporation, is to acquire by purchase the ship canal of the "Compagnie Nouvelle du Canal de Panama" and the railway across the Isthmus of Panama, and also to construct, equip, and operate said canal and railway and the various enterprises connected therewith. The articles also empower the company to enter into arrangements with any government that may seem conducive to the company's object. It is said that the capital of the company will be increased to \$120,000,000 at an early date.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Through a decree of the President of the Republic, the establishment of a custom-house has been ordered for the Territory of Caquetá, in the southeast of the Department of Canca, on the Ecuadorean, Brazilian, and Venezuelan frontiers.

The census of Bogotá, taken during the year 1899, shows the capital to have a population of 80,000 inhabitants.

## COSTA RICA.

## INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IN 1898 AND 1899.

Hon. WILLIAM L. MERRY, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States to the Republics of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Salvador has forwarded to the Department of State, at Washington, a report on the industrial conditions of the first-named country, as follows:

"The population of Costa Rica, by the census of 1864, was 120,500, which increased in 1895 to 248,500, and is now fairly stated as approxi-



mating 275,000. The following figures are applicable to the fiscal year ending March 31, 1899:

Imports, stated in gold valuation.....	\$4, 258, 896. 04
Exports, stated in gold valuation.....	5, 659, 218. 50

“The exports were divided as follows:

Coffee .....	4, 209, 569. 15
Bananas .....	923, 090. 26
Timber and dyewoods.....	345, 439. 04
Precious metals .....	48, 788. 30
Various exports.....	132, 331. 81

“The imports of the year 1898 were divided as follows: United States, 44.80 per cent; England, 19.60 per cent; Germany, 15.60 per cent; various, 20 per cent.

“In the first four months of 1899 the ratio of imports from the United States had increased to 67.25 per cent, owing mainly to the facilities of steam transportation, although it is not pleasant to note that almost exclusively foreign tonnage was employed in this increasing movement of merchandise. The most important imports from the United States consist of flour, machinery, oils, wire and wire fencing, iron pipe, and furniture. The importation of American cotton drilling and prints is also increasing rapidly.

“Of the coffee, 56 per cent went to England, 20 per cent to the United States, 16 per cent to Germany, and 8 per cent elsewhere. Of the bananas, about two-thirds were shipped to New Orleans and one-third to Atlantic coast ports of the United States.

“The Costa Rica Railway, from Port Limon to Alajuela, through San José and other principal cities of the Republic, with branches, has a length of 137½ miles. It carried in the year 1898, 601,198 passengers and approximately 160,000 tons of freight. Of this railway, the Government owns about \$400,000 in shares, gold value, and the remainder is English property. It is well constructed with material imported from England. The ties are of iron and practically indestructible. The Pacific Railroad will have a length of 58.8 miles from San José to the proposed port of Tivives, at the mouth of the Gulf of Nicoya. It is being constructed by American contractors for account of the Government with material (except ties) from the United States. There are now completed 9 miles; additional graded, 25 miles; partially graded, 3.8 miles; not commenced, 21 miles. The road is now using one locomotive (wood burner) and numerous flat cars imported from the United States. Both railways are 3 feet 6 inches in gauge. The railway from Limon to the interior, after it leaves about 10 miles of banana lands, ascends rapidly, passing the city of Cartago at 5,000 feet elevation, the capital, San José, being 3,860 feet above sea level and consequently on the Pacific slope. It has been an expensive road to construct and runs through beautiful mountain scenery. From San José to the Pacific the American-built road will run through a mountainous region for about

half its length and thence reaches the Pacific over comparatively easy grades, with a maximum of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Both these roads have, unavoidably, many curves.

"It must be remembered that mountainous regions in Central America are not barren, like the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada in the United States. The rainfall is generally heavy throughout Costa Rica. The mountains are covered to the summits with vegetation, and, except at the summits, with a soil generally rich. There are running streams in every direction, from which, owing to heavy grades, abundant electric power can be developed. It is a beautiful country, and in its elevated region has a healthy climate. The interior is specially adapted to the growth of coffee, which commands a much higher price in European markets than the Brazilian product. The Atlantic littoral is equally well adapted to the growth of bananas of an excellent quality. These two articles are, as may be noted herein, its principal products, the latter increasing rapidly, while the present low price of coffee offers little inducement to an increase of production, although, if the landowner is free of mortgage, there is still a fair margin.

"Costa Rica needs a diversification of her products, a point which is now engaging the attention of the Government and the agriculturists. An excellent quality of cacao, india rubber, and all classes of tropical fruits for export can be added to the production, while the northwestern part of the Republic is well adapted to the cattle industry, the Republic not producing at this time the cattle it consumes. Angora goats might be profitably raised in the mountains, above the elevation suitable for coffee growing. There are also valuable gold and copper mines in the interior of the Republic, this development having but recently commenced with English and American capital.

"Costa Rica has excellent harbors on the Pacific, among them Salinas Bay, Port Culebra, and ports on the Gulf of Nicoya. At present the only one on the Pacific littoral frequently used by foreign shipping is Punta Arenas, connected by rail with the town of Esparta, 15 miles inland, whence there is a good cart road to San José. On the Atlantic the only seaport of note is Limon, where the Government is incurring comparatively large expenditures for sanitary and harbor improvement. The sum of \$765,098 gold has been thus far expended, which has been paid, about half in cash and half in noninterest-bearing bonds, the work being under control of an American contractor. When the projected work has been completed, Limon should be one of the healthiest ports in Central America.

"The wharfage facilities being deficient, the English railway corporation is constructing a new steel pier, with depth of water for the largest ships. A moderate supply of fuel for steam purposes is always to be had here, the railway company keeping a reserve stock of English patent fuel (compressed coal blocks) for its own service and for shipping. The town and shipping are supplied with excellent potable water, brought from the hills back of the harbor in iron piping.

"Twenty-six steamships monthly now visit Limon, connecting with ports in the United States, Europe, the Spanish Main, and West India Islands. Eight to ten mail steamships (American, English, and Chilean) now call at Punta Arenas monthly, besides transient steamers and sailing vessels, the latter loading principally hard cabinet and dye woods, ores, hides, etc., for Europe.

"One advantage that Costa Rica has over other Spanish American Republics is the fact that her soil is largely owned by small landowners, who make their homes there and, as small producers, are interested in a peaceable life. These people are the backbone of the country—industrious, good citizens, averse to revolutions and political excitement. Considering the small area of the Republic and the still smaller population, relatively, Costa Rica has reason to congratulate herself upon her advancement. It needs only the commencement of the interoceanic canal to place her and her sister Republic, Nicaragua (also a country of great natural resources), on the highway of the world's commerce. When that time arrives, both Republics will rapidly and securely advance in the path of material welfare and prosperity."

In commenting on this report Señor Don JOAQUIN B. CALVO, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Costa Rica to the United States, says he believes that the fact that the commercial sight exchange on New York has gone down from 180 per cent to 130 per cent—with a tendency to go lower—is also worthy of notice. This is chiefly due, he explains, to the amount of the reserve in gold and other resources in Costa Rica preparatory to the adoption of the gold standard, the conversion to be effected at the close of the year 1900.

#### COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Legation of Costa Rica furnishes the Bureau of the American Republics with the appended recapitulation of the exports from New York, New Orleans, and San Francisco to Costa Rica during the second half of the year 1899:

Month.	Number of packages.	Weight.	Net value.	Freight charges.	Total value, United States gold.
<b>NEW YORK.</b>					
		<i>Kilos.</i>			
July.....	17,202	1,282,981	.....	.....	\$142,733.72
August.....	6,578	478,624	.....	.....	76,602.39
September.....	8,675	675,733	.....	.....	79,319.76
October.....	7,665	584,919	.....	.....	73,037.38
November.....	7,278	524,238	.....	.....	355,559.41
December.....	13,948	665,641	.....	.....	121,185.11
Total.....	61,346	4,212,136	.....	.....	848,497.77
<b>NEW ORLEANS.</b>					
July.....	14,970	991,311	\$30,699.23	\$8,522.29	39,221.52
August.....	9,792	811,639	30,293.44	11,029.27	41,322.71
September.....	28,883	676,086	29,552.58	9,700.04	39,252.62
October.....	35,327	783,366	34,898.55	17,817.23	52,715.78
November.....	20,134	701,496	31,654.05	8,988.98	40,643.03
December.....	16,517	601,648	29,597.72	8,779.66	38,287.38
Total.....	125,623	4,565,516	186,605.57	64,837.47	251,443.04

Month.	Number of packages.	Weight.	Net value.	Freight charges.	Total value, United States gold.
SAN FRANCISCO.					
July .....	2, 278	<i>Kilos.</i> 103, 794	\$6, 560. 60	\$1, 278. 25	\$7, 838. 85
August .....	4, 803	179, 007	10, 142. 75	2, 185. 67	12, 328. 42
September .....	2, 315	95, 033	5, 701. 72	1, 269. 10	6, 970. 82
October .....	3, 234	110, 241	7, 657. 50	1, 682. 49	9, 339. 99
November .....	2, 840	114, 044	7, 038. 25	1, 309. 80	8, 348. 05
December .....	3, 724	176, 016	16, 892. 66	2, 227. 80	19, 120. 46
Total .....	19, 194	778, 135	53, 993. 48	9, 953. 11	63, 946. 59

## Total value of exports—

From New York .....	\$848, 497. 77
From New Orleans .....	251, 443. 04
From San Francisco .....	63, 946. 59

Grand total ..... 1, 163, 887. 40

**EXPLOITATION OF RUBBER, SARSAPARILLA, AND VANILLA.**

A decree was published in the *Diario Oficial* of the Republic of Costa Rica on November 16, 1899, authorizing the free exploitation of rubber, sarsaparilla, vanilla, and all other vegetable products existing in the national forests, with the exception of wood.

**ECUADOR.****ADDITIONAL IMPORT DUTY.**

The British Foreign Office has received a communication from the representative of Great Britain at Lima, Peru, in which it is stated that from January 1, 1900, additional customs duties of 10 per cent will be imposed on all imports into Ecuador. Goods which are at present stored in Ecuadorian custom-houses, or which left foreign ports before December 1, 1899, are exempted from the operation of this additional duty.

**REGULATIONS AFFECTING COASTING AND RIVER TRADE.**

The British Vice-Consul at Guayaquil reports to the Foreign Office that by the new custom-house law of Ecuador, which came into force on January 1, 1900, it is enacted that "the coasting and river trade shall be carried on solely by national ships, but the Executive may admit foreign vessels to this trade when this is deemed convenient. Before conceding this permission the Executive will demand that the tariffs of fares and freights shall be submitted for its approbation, and these can not be altered without its consent." The coasting and river traffic was previously open to any foreign flag.

## GUATEMALA.

## THE PRODUCTION OF RUBBER.

The "Nouveau Monde" (Paris) for December says that Mr. J. HORTA, a distinguished and well-known agriculturist, has just published the results of his studies on rubber in Guatemala, in the course of which he states that rubber is found growing wild and is obtained from a tree known under the name of *Castillea elastica cero*, which grows throughout Central America. The rubber produced is of an excellent quality and has a high commercial value. The cultivation of this product could in a short time, Mr. HORTA believes, become one of the principal resources of the country. He asserts that rubber trees can not develop when exposed to the sun, but this is contrary to the opinion of Mr. ROMERO, a specialist of the country. In support of his theory he presents detailed technical reasons which show lengthy research and practical intelligence.

As regards rubber production, Mr. HORTA estimates that the sap can be extracted twice a year and that a tree cultivated under ordinary conditions should give, after nine or ten years, from 2 to 3 pounds of the crude product annually. More modern methods of culture would greatly increase this output. The author of the pamphlet gives valuable pointers relative to the gathering of the sap. He advises that the *machete*, which has been used up to the present time for the incisions, be replaced by a special knife, thus obtaining clearer cuts and better-directed openings. He recommends especially that these incisions be cut in such a manner as to leave the bark of the tree intact, as, through lack of taking this indispensable precaution, many trees die within a very short period.

Mr. HORTA shows that a plantation of 100,000 trees will cost at the time of the first crop—that is, ten years after planting—\$95,000, and that the first crop alone will yield \$189,500. But, reducing this sum by one-half, a profit of 100 per cent on the capital invested would still be realized, so that 100 plantations would give an annual profit of more than \$9,000,000 and would double the national wealth.

In conclusion, Mr. HORTA cites some figures which show the importance of the rubber industry. He says the world's total production of rubber, June 30, 1898, was 94,000,000 pounds. Since 1895 the price of rubber has constantly increased. Africa and South America are the principal sources of production. During the past year Brazil exported 50,000,000 pounds of rubber. The production of Africa is estimated at 40,000,000 pounds. India is credited with 1,000,000 pounds and all of the countries of Central and South America (Brazil excepted) have furnished about 3,000,000 pounds. Fifty years ago the Brazilian crop amounted to 1,000,000 pounds. This country has consequently increased its exports of rubber at the rate of 1,000,000 pounds a year.

**TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.**

A résumé of an article in the "Moniteur Officiel" for November 30 says that American machinery finds a good market in Guatemala, England being almost its only competitor. The success of these two nations is due to the fact that they keep agents in the country and expend yearly large sums in catalogues and advertisements published in Spanish and presented in a commercial form within the reach of everyone.

The principal machines employed in Guatemala and in all of Central America are motors, water wheels, turbines, machinery for coffee and sugar cane, and apparatus for sugar mills. Regular agricultural machinery is little used in the country on account of the nature of the soil and the class of products. The only tools which are very much in demand and enjoy a large sale are pickaxes, axes, and *machetes*. These are all imported from the United States and England.

The principal houses in Guatemala engaged in the sale of machinery and agricultural implements are:

Furrer, Hastedt & Co.; Tumber & Wiebalk (Germans); Iman Van de Putte & Co. (Belgians); Paul & Co. (Guatemalans); J. E. Van der Henst (Dutch); Zadik & Co. (Americans). These houses furnish the entire Republic.

The import duty is: For large machinery, 2 *centavos* per kilo; for small machinery, 10 *centavos* per kilo; plus an additional 15 per cent. Of the total 70 per cent is payable in silver of the country, and 30 per cent in gold at a variable rate of exchange. In packing, the packages should be restricted to a maximum weight of 200 pounds, a load for one mule in this country. The terms for payment are one-third down and the remainder at six or seven months, according to the security offered by the purchaser.

**MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.**

Messrs. PINETTA & Co., have commenced the manufacture of spirituous liquors which "La República," of Guatemala City, reports as of good quality. Among the samples sent the newspaper were bottles containing domestic maraschino, cacao, absinthe, anisette, cognac, etc.

On January 9, 1900, the United States Patent-Office issued a patent to FRITZ E. R. OKRASSA, of Antigua, Guatemala, for a coffee or malt drier.

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**HAITI.****PROCEEDINGS WITH REFERENCE TO PUBLIC WORKS.**

Hon. W. F. POWELL, Minister of the United States to Haiti, under date of December 5, 1899, sends the following communication to the Department of State in answer to a circular letter of the Department

dated November 17, 1899, in regard to the construction of public works:

"For works of a national nature in this Republic, the Government neither invites proposals nor bids in reference to the same. The manner of conducting such affairs is as follows: A railroad is to be constructed, waterworks to be built, or an electric-light plant established. Some individual, either native or foreign, secures from the Government a concession to do such work, reserving in return all the emoluments from such enterprise, with an added subsidy from the Government for a term of years, after which time it is supposed to revert to the Government.

\* \* \* "Up to this date there is no public work under Government control except the rebuilding of a dock yard for the repair of its vessels of war. Several concessions have been granted for contemplated improvements, but they are all in the hands of private parties, some of whom are in New York, others in Europe, seeking to secure funds to commence such work, or else to part with their interest to others who will pay the highest sum for them. Among the concessions granted within the past few years are the following:

"A railroad from Cape Haitien to Grand Riviere, a distance of about 40 miles, of which 10 miles are completed.

"A railroad from Port-au-Prince to the Salt Lakes, destined to be the connecting link between the capitals of Haiti and Santo Domingo, a distance of 200 miles. This road is not yet commenced, as the concessionaires are in Europe seeking funds or purchasers of the franchise.

"Waterworks at Port-au-Prince, to supplement the water supply of the city. The work is not yet begun, and the concessionaire is endeavoring to capitalize the enterprise in New York.

"Electric-light plant for Port-au-Prince, work on which has not been begun for lack of funds." \* \* \*

#### TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

Though the importation of agricultural machinery in Haiti is at present very much restricted, it is susceptible of development. The machines imported to-day are those used for cleaning coffee, shelling and grinding corn, decorticating rice, and cotton seeders. American plows are beginning to be introduced. If simple agricultural machinery were placed on exhibition at Port au Prince this branch of trade would undoubtedly greatly increase, as a decided tendency toward agriculture is noted. Machinery is admitted free of duty.

#### TRADE WITH BOSTON IN 1899.

The Consul of Haiti at Boston, Massachusetts, reports the exports to his country from Boston during 1899 as amounting to \$15,452 in value. The imports from Haiti were as follows: Logwood, 4,133 tons; coffee, 33 bags; fustic, 45 tons; cacao, 10 bags; old metal, 5 barrels.

## MEXICO.

## ABOLITION OF COFFEE DUTIES.

Señor LIMANTOUR, Minister of the Treasury, recently submitted a list of very important measures to President DIAZ for his approval, prior to sending them to Congress. In his communication the Minister alludes to the "exceptionally prosperous condition of public finance, allowing certain fiscal reforms of great importance to be effected under propitious circumstances." In alluding to national industries, he says:

"The production of coffee is perhaps the only one of our industries that is not flourishing, but which, on the contrary, is passing through a severe and prolonged crisis, on which account the Government has taken several steps with a view to determining the economic causes which have led to the depreciation of this important branch of our national wealth.

"In other times, not far distant, when the situation was reversed and the producers of coffee realized large profits, while a certain degree of depression was noticeable in most of the other branches of industry and commerce, and when this state of stagnation was reflected in the condition of the Treasury, an export tax was decreed on coffee, which yielded a large income to the Government, and which might at the same time be considered as a fair share which the growers and exporters of that product contributed for the other taxpayers, on whom devolved the sustaining of the public burdens of those depressing times. It, therefore, seems just that now the Government should relinquish this branch of revenue, and it may be observed that the abolition of the tax for the remainder of the present fiscal year can only be attended with a diminution of less than \$200,000 in the revenues of the Republic—nevertheless, it will afford great relief to the producers of coffee."

Congress is reported to have agreed to the Ministers' recommendations.

The Legislature of the State of Veracruz has reduced the tax paid by land devoted to coffee culture from 6 *centavos* an *ara* to 4 *centavos*.

Owing to the falling off in the price of coffee during the early part of last year (which, however, was toward the close of 1899 followed by a rise) some planters in the state of Puebla, especially in the districts of Zacaopaxtla and Teziutlán, determined to give up the cultivation of coffee for that of cotton and tobacco. In Michoacán and Veracruz similar changes were noticed. The recent abolishment by the Mexican Government of the export duty on coffee may cause these planters to return to coffee culture, as they thereby gain a cent per pound.

## RESTORATION OF MINES TO UNITED STATES OWNERS.

A dispatch dated December 10, 1899, stated that the Supreme Court of the State of Durango had rendered a decision restoring the Vasas,



San Marcos, and Bismarck mines, located in the State named, to their original owners, one of the largest shareholders being Mrs. MARY D. GRACE, of Syracuse, New York.

The mines are valued at \$20,000,000, and prominent mining experts who have recently examined the properties state there is from \$9,000,000 to \$10,000,000 worth of ore in sight. The ore runs high in silver and gold. The mines were acquired several years ago, the stockholders being New York and New England capitalists. Mr. W. J. GRACE, son of Mrs. M. D. GRACE, was elected secretary and placed in charge of the properties. The new owners made important improvements, and had just begun developments on an extensive scale when a detachment of *rurales* took possession of the mines, forcibly ejecting Mr. GRACE. A rival company, which was installed, is now ejected by the court.

#### NEW TYPEWRITING MACHINE.

According to the "Scientific American," two patents have been granted in the United States to MANUEL S. CARMONA, of the City of Mexico for a novel typewriter. In both machines the same result is obtained with somewhat different methods. With only five keys the inventor obtains all the characters usually employed in writing, so that the machine can be readily operated with one hand. The number of combinations obtained with these five keys is 31. By means of two auxiliary keys, 31 additional characters may be obtained twice over, so that the total number of possible characters is 93. The spacing of the type is automatically measured so as to correspond with each letter to be printed, enabling the form and size of the type to be varied at will. With the same machine, large and small letters, English script, printing letters, German, Greek, and written characters can be used. The writing is always plainly visible.

#### COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Consul-General of Mexico at New York reports the imports of Mexican products into the port of New York during the month of November, 1899, as follows: Henequén, 19,421 bales; coffee, 8,379 bags; hides, 2,665 bales; hides, loose, 5,364; ixtle, 3,190 packages; goat skins, 542 bundles; deer skins, 562 bundles; rubber, 141 packages; leaf tobacco, 32 bales; cigars, 135 boxes; broom root, 761 bales; chicle gum, 159 packages; fustic, 6,706 logs; tecali, 54 logs; hair, 9 bales; lead, 85,635 bars; metals, 91 boxes; ore, 19,757 packages; sarsaparilla, 26 bales; vanilla, 11 boxes; alligator skins, 41; heron plumes, 10 boxes; bones, 2,204 packages; honey, 138 barrels; cedar logs, 3,264; mahogany logs, 3,063; copper, 5,583 bars; oranges, 247 boxes; rope, 516 packages; horns, 10 packages. During the same month the vessels entered at the port of New York were 15 steamers, bringing a total of 168,716 packages. The vessels clearing for Mexican ports during the same month were 13, carrying 161,038 packages.

The Consul-General of Mexico in San Francisco gives the value of the exports of merchandise from the port named to the ports of Mexico during the month of November, 1899, as follows: United States goods, \$146,800; foreign goods, \$5,591; Mexican silver *pesos* to Hongkong, \$211,573. The imports into San Francisco from Mexican ports during the same month were as follows: Metals, ore and coin, \$397,192; merchandise, \$30,073.

The Mexican Consul at Nogales, Arizona, reports that the imports into the State of Sonora during the month of November last through the custom-house at Nogales, Mexico, were valued at \$144,747, distributed, with respect to country of origin, as follows: From the United States, \$122,519; from England, \$8,492; from France, \$7,796; from Germany, \$5,239. The imports into the United States of Mexican products during the month named were valued at \$508,512.

The Consul of Mexico at San Diego, California, has informed this Bureau that during the month of November last the exports from San Diego to ports of the United Mexican States were 4,880 packages, valued at \$8,422.44. The imports for the same month from Mexico into San Diego were valued at \$4,628.

The Mexican Vice-Consul at Mobile, Alabama, states that the exports from that port to Mexico during the month of December last were valued at \$66,453.92.

#### PROGRESS OF COTTON MANUFACTORIES.

The San Martin Cotton Factory, located near the town of that name on the Interoceanic Railway, has been completed and is now in operation. During the month of December it employed 300 operatives, but it was stated that this number would be increased to 500 shortly after January 1, 1900. A large cotton factory which is being erected at Atotonilco, on the same line of railway, will be completed and placed in operation by February 10, and a company of native capitalists is being organized to erect a cotton mill at Torreon, in the Nozas River cotton district. The proposed capital stock of this concern is \$1,200,000 Mexican currency.

#### DEPOSITS OF NATURAL COKE.

At a meeting of the American Institute of Mining Engineers held in San Francisco, California, during the last week in September, 1899, Mr. E. T. DIMBLE presented a paper dealing with explorations made by him on the line of the Sonora Railway and the discovery of deposits of natural coke of an excellent quality. This discovery is believed to be of the greatest importance to Mexico, where the cost of fuel is steadily increasing. The following are extracts from the paper referred to

“During explorations made for the Southern Pacific Company, in the early part of this year, deposits of natural coke of such extent and

excellent quality as to be worthy of record were found in the Santa Clara coal field, in the neighborhood of La Barranca, a small town 95 miles northeast of Ortiz, on the Sonora Railway. The coal beds are exposed in the drainage basin of Calera Creek, which empties into the Yaqui River opposite Toniche, and the old mining town of Tarahumari is nearly in the center of the field.

\* \* \* "The entire area is underlain by rocks of Triassic age, much disturbed in places, and cut through and covered by eruptive rocks of various kinds and ages. The coal beds occur in a series of interbedded sands and clays in the upper half of the sedimentary Triassic rocks.

"In our search for coal outcrops on Calera Creek, we came across a fragment of coke, and tracing it up finally found a small bed of impure coke at the mouth of El Tren, one of the principal tributaries of that stream. A few days later, one of the prospect slopes, driven on a supposed outcrop, opened out into a body of 3 feet of good coke, underlain by 2 feet of anthracite.

"Later still, as we were prospecting a creek somewhat over a half mile west of the last, we found a place where the gophers had brought out some coal dust, and put men to work on it. Within 10 feet it opened into a good body of coke, which at 30 feet depth was 8 feet thick, and at 130 feet depth was over 10 feet thick.

"Besides these two principal openings, which we subsequently proved to be in the same bed, we have since located several other deposits, with thickness of from 2 to 4 feet. It is possible that the coke is not entirely due to the effect of igneous rock. One bed of coke has, so far as we have found, no igneous rock near it; and again, at one locality, there are small pockets of coke in a 4-foot seam of anthracite, and, so far, we have not found any intrusive rock in the immediate vicinity. These pockets are about the center of the seam, and are small, but the coke is of good quality. Corresponding in a way to the occurrence of the coke in the anthracite, we find for the first 50 or 60 feet in the gopher slope a little anthracite in pockets at the base of the coke.

"The occurrence of coal and coke in the same bed, but in separate benches, is also noticeable. This is found in three separate localities and in different beds. In two cases the coke forms the upper bench and in the other the coal is on top. In the first opening mentioned above the two branches are separated by a clay parting 3 inches thick. In the other two I did not find any parting.

"Where the coal is crushed a little graphite is found along the lines of fracture. I have not found it elsewhere in the beds. Some of the anthracite of the region also has a little graphite in similar relation, and there are several localities where the entire bed is altered to graphite. The occurrence in the coke seam is interesting, however, as it shows that in the cumulative transformation from vegetable fiber to

graphite the passage may be either through anthracite or through natural coke.

"The coke is dark gray in color, of even texture, with small pores (denser than most oven coke), and very firm. It breaks with very even fracture, but has in places the columnar structure of oven coke well developed. "It is an excellent fuel, burning without sparking or deflagration. It is little or no harder to ignite than the anthracite, and burns well in open fire, in the blacksmith forge, and in the assay furnace. The ash is white.

"The value of these coke beds is largely due to the fact that the intrusives are so regularly interbedded, running for long distances in the same bed of coal slates. This gives promise of a far greater supply of coke than could be hoped for under other conditions, and gives to the deposit in this region, where there is no cooking coal of any kind, a decided commercial importance."

#### NEW INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

The French Legation at Mexico gives the following items of news relative to recent industrial enterprises:

A large cotton mill is to be established at Linares (Nuevo León) by two capitalists of San Luis Potosi, Messrs. ANTONIO FERNANDEZ and PEDRO FERRER, who are associated with Messrs. JUAN B. SUAREZ and VICENTE FERNÁNDEZ, two specialists in this line. The building of the factory is to begin immediately.

The municipal council has approved a contract proposed by Mr. C. L. SEEGER, for the establishment of a service of 100 electric automobile cabs. The service should be in operation within two years.

An American capitalist, Mr. J. BRITTINGHAM, has just petitioned the Ministry of Fomento for permission to establish the first glycerine factory in the Republic. He has also asked the concession of privileges which the law grants to those who establish a new industry in the Republic. The factory will be capitalized at \$1,000,000.

According to the "Economista Mexicano," Mexico produces yearly from 60,000 to 90,000 tons of sugar, which are consumed in the country.

The explorations made in the vicinity of Tecomatlan, 70 kilometers from Matamoros de Izucar (State of Puebla) with the object of gaining an idea of the importance of the coal deposits recently discovered in this region, have been, it appears, most satisfactory. Twelve shafts have been sunk, and, in view of the success of the researches, many machines for the exploitation of the deposits have been ordered.

From other authentic sources the Bureau of the American Republics has learned of the establishment and progress of several other enterprises and concerns, among which are the following:

A number of capitalists are interested in establishing three large factories on the outskirts of the City of Mexico, one for cloth making, another for footwear, and the third for writing paper.

A joint stock company has just been formed in Tepeaca, State of Puebla, for the purpose of establishing a large wine-making concern, the region in the neighborhood being very largely devoted to vine growing.

Chilpancingo, capital of the State of Guerrero, is soon to have electric lights. The plant to furnish the same is now in the process of erection.

Some Monterey capitalists have formed a company to bore artesian wells in the principal cities of the State of Nuevo León.

The government of the State of Nuevo León has granted a concession for the establishment of a new woolen goods factory.

A United States syndicate is soon to erect at a point near Guadalajara, Jalisco, a dynamite factory.

#### PROPOSED ELECTRIC RAILWAY SYSTEM—OTHER RAILWAY NOTES.

According to the "Engineering News," an electric railway system is proposed which will connect the States of Tabasco, Yucatan, Chiapas, and Campeche with the Central Mexican railway system. It is to be called the Southern National and International Railway, and will ultimately be 409 miles long. The estimated cost of this system is given as \$14,000,000. Of this sum the Federal Government is to provide \$6,000,000 and the States of Tabasco and Campeche are to be asked for subsidies. Including the Federal grant, \$10,000,000 have been subscribed up to date (January 1, 1900).

From other sources it is learned that the Ministry of Communications is much interested in the plan to build a railroad to run through the States named above, and to connect with railroads already completed and working. The plans show that the road will run through the following points: Campeche, Lerma, Serva-cabecera, Sihochac, Puetunich, Sabcabchen, Chichul, Monte Clara, Palmar, Tenosique, Palenque, Tumbala, Tacotalpa, Teapa, Pichucalco, Juárez, Huimanguillo, Carmen, Moluacan, Minatitlán, and Juile. At this latter point it will connect with the Isthmus Railroad. The construction is very difficult, but the concessionaries are very enthusiastic and purpose carrying out their plans. All the stockholders in the enterprise will be Mexican citizens.

Among the other items relative to railway improvements, etc., the following are noted:

The "Westminster Gazette" is authority for the statement that Sir WEATMAN PEARSON, M. P., the head of the firm of PEARSON & SON, LIMITED, contractors for public works, have concluded negotiations with the Mexican Government pursuant to which they will assume charge of the Tehuantepec railroad for a period of fifty years, reconstructing the line and making ports at each of its extremities. The ports will cost 10,000,000 pesos.

The Mexican International Railroad recently signed a contract with the attorney in fact of a Phoenix, Arizona, firm for the construction of seven bridges to be erected over the Nazas River at the following points: Nazas, Cuencamé, Pericán, Pozuelos, Tlahualilo, Cornal, and Ciudad Porfirio Díaz.

It was reported that a syndicate of United States capitalists, which was organized in December last with a capital of \$7,000,000, has purchased the Mexican Northern Railway, which runs from Escalón Station on the Mexican Central to Sierra Mojada in the State of Chihuahua. The line is to be continued to Monterey.

The drawings of the final survey for the proposed extension of the Mexican International Railroad from the city of Durango to the port of Mazatlán, in Sinaloa, have been filed in the Department of Communications, and have been approved by it. A large force of men is already on the ground and work is under way.

It is expected that the railroad from Guadalajara to the Pacific Ocean, being built by the Mexican Central Railroad, will reach its western terminus during the present year.

#### MINING AND MINERAL NOTES.

The Cananea Consolidated Copper Company has secured a contract from the Government of Sonora to establish a smelter at the mineral region known as Cananea. The smelter is to have a capacity of at least 200 tons; the company is authorized to build railroads from its mines to the smelter, as well as to construct telegraph and telephone lines; the capital of the company is exempt from all State and municipal taxes for a period of twenty years, and the copper produced by it is exempt from all local imposts. Within the term of eighteen months the company must prove that it has invested at least 300,000 *pesos* in the construction of the smelter and the development of its mines, etc. The company deposited in cash \$5,000 in the State treasury as a guaranty for the fulfillment of the contract.

The great furnace of the Durango Iron and Steel Company is now nearing completion. It will be used for smelting the iron taken from the historic mountain known as the Cerro del Mercado, which adjoins the city of Durango, and forms part of the iron and steel works the company is establishing there. Machinery is being installed for the manufacture of iron of all kinds and forms, and for producing steel. It is reported that eventually even steel rails will be made there.

Large deposits of iron ore have been discovered in the territory of Tepic and oil discoveries in different parts of the Republic are becoming so frequent as to give reasonable expectation of the addition of a new source of wealth. Tests show the oil to be of excellent quality for lubricating and other purposes.

**IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.**

There are 2,000 sugar-cane plantations in the Republic of Mexico, which, during the past year, produced about 80,000 tons of sugar. Notwithstanding this fact it is reported that there is only one mill in the country that forms the sugar into cubes, and it is located near the city of Tepic, in the Territory of that name.

The farmers on either side of the Rio Grande have received with enthusiasm the news recently circulated that the Government of Mexico is to appropriate 1,000,000 *pesos* for the construction of a great international dam, some 5 miles above Ciudad Porfirio Diaz.

According to the "Boletín de Estadística" there are in the State of Yucatán 46,907 *hectares* 5,100 square meters of land planted in corn this year, which, as compared to that under corn last year, shows a decrease of 7,656 *hectares* 3,454 square meters.

Up to October of last year the shipments of cattle from Mexico to Puerto Principe, Santa Clara, and Habana numbered 35,000 head, and contracts have been made in Chihuahua, to be delivered during this month at El Paso, for 25,000 head more.

Several California capitalists have gone into the fruit culture in the States of Veracruz and Oaxaca under favorable auspices.

The shipments of oranges from Sonora to the United States this season have been the heaviest ever known.

**PROPOSED GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS.**

Mexico finding herself with a considerable surplus on hand is endeavoring to apply a part of it to public works and other ends looking to the public weal. To this end there is now before the Chamber of Deputies a bill carrying an appropriation of \$4,000,000, to be taken from the Treasury surplus and to be distributed as follows: For the construction of primary schools in the Federal District and for a building for the Board of Education, \$1,000,000; for the completion of the General Hospital, \$500,000; construction of buildings for the Medical Institute and Geological Institute, \$200,000; for the new post-office buildings in the capital, Vera Cruz, and Pueblo, \$1,000,000; for the cable to unite Lower California and the coast of Senora, \$300,000; for the purchase of war vessels and construction of the Naval Academy, \$1,000,000. The authority granted the Executive to expend the sums thus appropriated is limited to June 30, 1902.

**DEATHS OF DISTINGUISHED OFFICIALS.**

The announcement is made of the death of Señor Don ANTONIO de MIER Y CELIS, Minister Plenipotentiary of Mexico to the Government of France and Commissioner-General of Mexico to the Paris Exposition of 1900, on December 12, 1899. Señor DE MIER Y CELIS, who was 65 years of age, had filled many important positions in the service of his

country. He represented his Government at the recent Peace Congress at The Hague and was the representative of Mexico at the "Diamond Jubilee" of Queen Victoria. The deceased was the brother of Don SEBASTIAN DE MIER, Minister of Mexico to the Court of St. James.

A dispatch from the City of Mexico dated January 10, 1900, stated that Gen. FELIPE BERRIOZABAL, Minister of War, and one of Mexico's ablest commanders and patriots, expired during the previous night.

#### NEW FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

On January 8, 1900, a new American banking concern opened for business in the City of Mexico under the title of the United States Banking Company, with a paid-up capital of \$100,000. The American Bank (formerly known as the American Surety Bank) last year earned 30 per cent, and has been a prosperous institution from the start.

The Banco Yucateco (Bank of Yucatán), which formerly had a capital of 2,000,000 *pesos*, has been authorized to increase it to 3,000,000, in view of the augmented business on the Peninsula.

On December 6, 1899, the Mercantil Bank of Monterey, the second institution of the kind established in the flourishing capital of Nuevo León, opened its doors for business.

On December 1, 1899, the Banco Mercantil de Nuevo León, with a capital of 2,500,000 *pesos*, was opened for business.

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST REGARDING THE CITY OF MEXICO.

According to the list of business establishments paying a license tax in the City of Mexico, which list is prepared and published every year, there are at present in the capital of Mexico 1,118 tobacconists shops, 35 brick kilns, 706 saloons, 451 chophouses, 35 cafés, 33 confectionery shops, 430 restaurants, 308 butcher shops, 200 shops for the sale of pork products, 44 soap factories, 32 lard refineries, 33 cracker and biscuit factories, 39 bakeries, 27 pastry shops, 21 ice-cream shops, 46 boarding houses, 35 hotels, 10 hostelryes, 6 lodging houses, 66 billiard rooms, bowling alleys, shooting galleries, etc. Of these establishments 599 pay an extra tax or license for keeping open during extra hours.

A new alcove with shelves is to be shortly added to the National Library. During the past year more than 2,000 volumes have been added to the library and the new additions which have enriched it have been catalogued. Several improvements are to be made to the building during the year.

On Sunday, December 18, 1899, the election for the city Councilmen of the capital took place, at which time Señor Don FRANCISCO L. DE LA BARRA, one of the Honorary Corresponding Members of the International Union of American Republics, was reelected Assistant City Counsel.



The city is soon to have a Recreation Park on the old Bucareli Promenade, the work on which is now nearing completion. Over 200,000 feet of lumber were ordered in the United States for this improvement.

About the middle of December, 1899, the decree providing for the new political organization of the Federal District was promulgated. It creates two new Prefectures out of the municipalities of Coyoacán and Guadalupe Hidalgo.

The water supply of the city is about 28,000 liters per minute, nearly half of which is furnished by the famous spring at the foot of the historic Chapultepec hill.

It is the intention of the municipal authorities to dredge the famous La Viga Canal, which has been gradually filling up for many years past.

Statistics published by the City Council show that in the eight wards within the city limits there are 10 public artesian wells and 1,017 private artesian wells. Despite this large number, they are almost daily being added to, all the larger houses that are being erected having at least one of these wells attached. The water supply furnished by the wells of this character mentioned has been estimated to be 14,121 liters per minute.

#### NEW STEAMSHIP LINES.

In December, 1899, a contract was made between the Department of Communications and the representative in Mexico of two steamship companies for the establishment of two lines of navigation to run between the ports of the eastern coast of Yucatán between Progreso and Belize and the principal Gulf ports—Coatzacoalcas, Vera Cruz, Tampico, Port Arthur, and Mobile.

The Minister of Communications and Señor MANUEL THOMAS Y TERÁN have signed a contract, additional to that of August 23, 1898, for the establishment of a line of steamers between Guaymas and Mazatlán.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Señor SARTO, a local engineer, has presented to the Geographical and Statistical Society of Mexico an important scheme for the construction of an interoceanic canal wholly within the territory of the Republic. The proposal is to deepen the river Grijalva and from its upper waters to make a ship canal, about 120 kilometers in length, to the Pacific. This work is estimated by Señor SARTO to cost not more than \$40,000,000.

The new Mexican cent-piece will be of bronze, 20 millimeters in diameter, weighing 3 grams, with smooth edge, bearing in the center of the obverse the national coat of arms with the legend "República Mexicana," and on the reverse the figure 1 and the letter C, surrounded by a crown of laurel. The new coin will be legal tender to the amount of 25 cents to the Government as well as to the people.

The Missouri Coffee and Rubber Company of St. Louis has recently been organized. This company owns a tract of land on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Southern Mexico, and proposes planting coffee and rubber trees and building up a commission trade in the products of Mexico and the United States. The company has published a pamphlet descriptive of the territory where the property is located.

A bill has been presented to the Minister of Communication and Public Works for the restoration of the house occupied by the Curé HIDALGO at the time when he proclaimed the independence of Mexico. This house, one of the oldest historic monuments of Mexico, is in such a state of dilapidation that fears are felt for its safety. The cost of the projected repairs will not exceed \$8,000.

The growth of the internal-revenue stamp income has been one of the notable features of recent years in Mexico. This is due to the great business activity of the country. The remarkable growth in the revenue thus derived has enabled the Government to abolish some of the taxes and reduce others, measures which have given universal satisfaction.

For the purpose of raising the money to furnish the city of San Luis Potosí with electric lights and power the authorities purpose levying a tax of 50 cents per month on all houses valued at \$1,000 to \$1,500; \$1 on houses valued at \$1,500 to \$5,000; and on all houses over the latter sum \$2 each.

The boundary conventions concluded between the States of Puebla and Tlaxcala, whereby the divisional line separating these two federal entities is definitively settled, has been approved by the Chamber of Deputies of the Federal Congress.

The Government of the State of Guanajuato recently purchased the building adjoining the present Government House for the purpose of making out of the two the new State Capitol.

A statue has been erected in the Santo Domingo Park at Queretaro of Doña JOSEFA ORTÍZ DE DOMÍNGUEZ, the *corregidora* or mayoress of Queretaro.

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## NICARAGUA.

### FRENCH REPORT OF COMMERCIAL MOVEMENTS.

According to the "Nouveau Monde" of December 16, 1899, the foreign commerce of Nicaragua in 1898 amounted to \$6,049,600 against \$5,700,000 in 1897, or an increase for 1898 of \$349,000, and a difference in favor of the exports of \$117,570. This last amount would have been much greater if an attempt at revolution had not during the year somewhat

paralyzed business. The total imports reached \$2,866,180 and the exports \$3,483,550.

The principal articles of importation are cotton tissues, \$1,182,000; wines and liquors, \$177,500; wheat, \$152,250; woolen tissues, \$113,000; porcelain and glassware, \$97,500; drugs and pharmaceutical products, \$77,500; wire fencing, \$64,400; conserves, coffee bags, etc., \$50,000.

The imports from England include cotton and woolen tissues, soaps, zinc, cutlery, alcoholic drinks, coffee bags, coal, drugs, porcelain, nails, saddles, underwear, etc. Those from Germany: beer, sewing machines, industrial machinery, nails, iron, wire, hosiery, glassware, matches, candles, cement, toys, hats, firearms, etc. Those from the United States: petroleum, wire, lamps, machinery, beer, ropes and cords, drugs, crockery. Those from France: gloves, silk, ribbons, shawls, fans, perfumery, umbrellas, fine shoes, paper, wine, liquors, underwear, etc.

The principal exports and their values are given at: coffee, \$1,250,000; rubber, \$500,000; gold, \$600,000; wood, \$300,000; cattle, \$200,000; and hides and skins, \$30,000, etc.

England receives gold, gold ores, wood, and indigo; Germany, principally coffee (three-fourths of the production); the United States, rubber, skins, and mahogany; France, coffee and indigo; Costa Rica, cattle, sugar, etc. Almost all the trade on the Atlantic coast is done with the United States.

The maritime movement of Corinto, the most important port of the country, registered 182 vessels, of a total tonnage 176,747 tons, 71 of which were American, 27 German, 10 English, 10 Danish, 35 Nicaraguan, 20 from Salvador, etc.

Nicaragua, with its wise administration, its freedom from heavy financial burdens (the public debt being only one and a half times the amount of its annual receipts), is developing slowly but surely and its agricultural and mining industries are following in the same line, as can be seen by the constant increase in the exports.

#### SHIPMENTS FROM DETROIT.

The Consul of Nicaragua at Detroit, Michigan, informs the Bureau of the American Republics that the only shipment made to his country from that port during the month of December was fifty cases of whisky, valued at \$475.

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## PARAGUAY.

#### REPORT ON THE COCOA TRADE.

In December, 1899, Mr. JOHN N. RUFFIN, United States Consul at Asunción, made a report with reference to the cocoa market. He says that very little cocoa has been exported from Paraguay recently. In 1897 the export of the native product was taken up by the Banca

Agricola at Asunción, and 2,000 sacks, with an aggregate weight of 97 tons, were sold in London, England, for a little more than £1,094. Deducting expenses, the bank realized from the operation £938, or about \$4,732 in gold. From this it would seem that Paraguayan cocoa brings the highest quotations. Most of the cocoa arriving in London comes from Africa and is offered at from \$46.23 to \$48.66 per ton, but the Paraguayan product brought from \$54.75 to \$55.96 per ton, and was pronounced much superior. The Consul says that Naples, Italy, desires to obtain annually 10,000 tons of Paraguayan cocoa, at a price of about £11 (\$53.53) per ton. In Paraguay the kernels cost from \$4 to \$5 the *arroba*; that is, from about 48 to 71 cents per 25 pounds.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

In a recent report made by Consul RUFFIN from Asunción it is stated that there exists in that city a fine market for shawls and other wearing apparel. Cotton shawls and large cotton handkerchiefs and socks and stockings of the same material are in demand. At present most of these articles come from Germany and England. Handkerchiefs are often substituted, especially in hot weather, for waists and collars. The variety most in demand are those having a broad border and with either dots or flowers in the designs.

The health authorities at Asunción have declared all vessels which left suspected ports within ten days prior to January 11, 1900, as being plague infected.

### PERU.

#### FOREIGN COMMERCE IN 1898.

The following statistics of the foreign trade of Peru are taken from the "Estadística General de Aduanas" for 1898:

	Imports.	Exports.
	<i>Sols.</i>	<i>Sols.</i>
Cotton goods .....	4,067,700	2,480,500
Woolens.....	1,376,600	3,091,100
Linen.....	259,100	.....
Silk .....	293,500	.....
Household effects and clothing .....	1,273,200	134,400
Sundries.....	8,456,100	11,483,600
Articles of food and spices .....	2,261,500	11,390,800
Wine and spirits.....	509,800	162,900
Medicines and chemicals.....	799,800	1,531,500
Total .....	19,207,300	30,274,800
In 1897.....	16,128,600	28,168,500
Increase in 1898.....	3,168,700	2,106,300

The imports were from the following countries:

	Sols.		Sols.
Great Britain.....	8, 632, 800	Ecuador .....	102, 000.
Germany.....	3, 401, 900	Bolivia .....	82, 500
United States .....	2, 078, 400	Central America .....	73, 200
France.....	1, 554, 000	Uruguay .....	28, 400
Chile .....	1, 368, 500	Mexico.....	19, 900
Italy.....	661, 700	Colombia .....	9, 200
Belgium .....	600, 400	Other countries .....	1, 800
China .....	526, 700		
Spain .....	155, 900		
		Total .....	19, 297, 300

The exports were to the following countries:

	Sols.		Sols.
Great Britain.....	17, 153, 900	Mexico.....	31, 600
Chile .....	4, 588, 500	China .....	30, 200
United States .....	2, 873, 500	Italy.....	27, 800
Germany .....	2, 703, 800	Central America.....	20, 000
Ecuador .....	892, 000	Belgium .....	12, 100
France.....	821, 000	Argentine Republic.....	8, 590
Bolivia .....	628, 900	Uruguay and Jamaica .....	1, 000
Colombia .....	442, 000		
Spain .....	40, 000		
		Total .....	30, 274, 800

#### TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The "Moniteur Officiel," in its issue of December 14, 1899, says that the importation of agricultural machinery in Peru has become of great commercial importance. The United States and England almost hold the monopoly of this trade, while the English manufacturers have been relegated to the last place and the Belgian manufacturers have outdistanced those of Germany. With the exception of some special articles which have a very small sale, such as cream separators, etc., agricultural machinery and instruments are admitted free of duty.

Among the machinery in great demand are plows, the "Collins" type without wheels being in most general use. On the large plantations steam plows of two engines of 16 horsepower each, which move the plows by means of two steel wire cables of 18 millimeters in diameter are employed. Each one of these machines costs \$1,500, and there are two or three on every large plantation. As the implements are to be used in working absolutely new lands, they must be of great solidity. They are generally furnished by the house of FOWLER, in Leeds, England. If the "Brabant" plows were known here, it is added, they would undoubtedly find an easy and advantageous sale. Mowers, liquid-manure pumps, and chaff cutters find no market in Peru.

Thrashing machines are beginning to be used for rice, but only as an experiment, and up to the present time the results have been inferior to those obtained by the old methods. Hand seeders are used on the coast for clover; their sale is, however, small. Pressers and apparatus for vine cultivation are supplied by France. Churners and cream sepa-

rators are beginning to be employed in the large *haciendas* in the interior, which are devoted especially to cattle raising and butter and cheese making. The French separators are in great favor. Self-cleaning rakes, with iron teeth, are much used on the coast. "Fairbanks" scales find a current sale; they should register both in kilograms and in pounds. Such implements as spades, machetes, American pickaxes, shovels, pruning knives for cutting rice, are all constructed on special models and should be exactly reproduced as to weight and shape. Articles even more advantageous would not compete, and possibly would never leave the store.

It would be difficult to indicate all the kinds of machines and implements employed in the raising of sugar cane, rice, etc., any more than to enumerate the prices of these articles, which have no value except when they accompany the article, thus allowing an easy comparison of the dimensions and quality.

Large machinery, such as engines, is generally sent uncovered or else packed in crates. Crates filled with straw are also used for packing smaller machinery.

The following houses are specially engaged in the sale of agricultural machinery at Lima: Messrs. Menchaca & Co. (Spanish), Hérouard (French), Emile F. Wagner (French), Ayulo & Co. (Peruvian), Normand C. M. Schröder & Co. (German), C. M. Morales (Peruvian), J. & T. Bresani.

These last two firms deal in implements and small machinery. Dealers could also address themselves to the owners of the large *haciendas*.

#### GUANO ON THE MAZORCA ISLANDS.

The "American Fertilizer" for December, 1899, says that Peruvian guano of as superior a quality as the "Chinchas" has quite recently been found on a group of islands known as the Mazorca Islands. These islands are situated to the north of Callao in a rainless region, as is the case with the Chinchas Islands, so that the guano has been able to maintain its high nitrogenous contents. It appears that large quantities of this fertilizer have been found with about 13½ to 14 per cent of nitrogen and 12 to 13 per cent phosphoric acid. The analysis made by Mr. D. CRISPO on the official average samples gives 13.95 per cent of nitrogen and 12.08 per cent phosphoric acid. The guano is found distributed over a considerable area, is 6 feet deep, and presents excellent characteristics. It is dry, light, and of a clear color, giving off a strong odor. The first cargo of the product recently arrived in London in the ship *Lorraine*. If the discovery proves to be as rich and abundant as described it will result in a large revenue to the Republic.

#### TELEPHONE SERVICE IN THE CITIES.

The French Minister to Lima recently reported to his Government that telephones in Peru are controlled either by private companies or

directly by the State. There are six services, namely: Prura, 455 kilometers; Trujillo, 440 kilometers; Lima (public), 1,658 kilometers; Lima (official), 48 kilometers; Chinchá, 15 kilometers; Arequipa, 30 kilometers. The wires are overhead and the apparatus used includes the "Humming," the "Black," the "Bell," the "Ericsson," and the "Western Electric." Arequipa uses the German "Mix" and "Genest" apparatus.

#### EXHIBIT AT BUFFALO.

In a letter received at the Pan-American Exposition headquarters, Mr. WILLIAM E. CURTIS says that the President of Peru has promised that his country will be well represented at the Buffalo Exposition. A magnificent display of the country's minerals is to be made, and an effort will be put forth to exhibit a good collection of Peruvian antiquities.

#### RECENT RAILWAY CONCESSION.

One of the noteworthy events near the close of the past year in Peru was the authority granted by the Government to a group of miners to construct and operate a broad-gauge railroad to run between the Tiglio Station on the Central Railway to the rich copper region near Morococha Lagoon. This road is singular in at least one regard—that it is to be built entirely with capital furnished exclusively by the miners and without any pecuniary aid from the Federal or Provincial Governments. The maximum of stock subscriptions has been placed at 5,000 sols, in order that the profits of the business may be participated in by the greatest number of miners. The road is to be built by the Peruvian Corporation and the surveys are far advanced.

The region traversed by the line and the neighborhood are very rich in copper and silver mines, yielding at the present time about 20,000 quintals of ore per month. It is asserted that with the building of the new branch of the Central Railway this yield will be trebled or quadrupled. The owners of the mining region known as "El Carmen" about the same time secured authority from the Government to construct a narrow-gauge railroad to unite its Casapalca mine with the station of the same name. Among other improvements are the concessions to construct a railroad from Cerro de Pasco to the neighboring coal region and the important wagon road being built by the United States corporation owning the famous Santo Domingo mine in the Province of Carabaya.

#### THE COMMERCIAL CODE.

On February 10, 1898, by Supreme Decree, a commission was named to revise the Peruvian Code of Commerce, which commission finished its labors and reported a revised code, which was submitted in the same year to the Congress, but unfortunately too late to be acted on thereby. The ensuing Congress, which brought its sessions to a close in October

of last year, failed also to take any action in the premises, and since that time the Lima Chamber of Commerce has been urging the President to present the matter again to the Congress at its extra session. It is hoped that the code will be accepted and issued soon.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Mr. ROLAND H. EAST, who served for a number of years as United States Consular Agent at Païta, Peru, and who was one of the best known foreign residents of that country, occupying many positions of responsibility, such as managing railroads and other large enterprises, which have redounded to the credit of the country and to himself, died on November 24, at the age of 59 years, greatly lamented by men high up in Peruvian administrative affairs and connected with the many undertakings he so successfully managed.

On November 17, the National Congress passed a bill appropriating the sum of £9,600 to complete the sum to cover the expenses incident to the representation of Peru at the Paris Exposition of this year. The work on the Peruvian Pavilion on the Exposition grounds is rapidly nearing completion. "La Patrie," a Parisian newspaper, recently published a view of this pavilion, which shows an exceedingly handsome and tasty architectural effort.

In September, 1896, Mr. ROBERT S. FORBES, a citizen of the United States, secured from the city council of Lima a concession for the electric lighting of the city, and on November 29 last the council confirmed and ratified the assignment of the concession made by the said FORBES to the "Sociedad Industrial de Santa Catalina," and recognized in the latter all the rights, privileges, exemptions, and immunities granted by the original concession to FORBES.

The Congress of Peru has ratified the Extradition Treaty with the United States, and it only needs, to become operative, the approval of the Senate of the latter country.

One of the new industries established in the city of Lima is the manufacture of paint from the albumina extracted from the blood which flows from the slaughterhouses of the capital.

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## SALVADOR.

#### NEW DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE.

After an absence of fourteen years from the land of his nativity, Dr. RAFAEL ZALDIVAR, ex-President of the Republic, has again entered his country's service. He has been sent to the City of Mexico and to



several European countries as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. It is also surmised that the United States will be included in the countries to whose Governments the new Minister will be accredited. Dr. ZALDIVAR was recently received by President DIAS of Mexico, the ceremonies on that occasion being very felicitous.

#### PRIVATE ASSUMPTION OF THE EXTERNAL DEBT.

"La Republica," a newspaper of Guatemala, reports the arrival there en route for Salvador, of Señor MARK KELLY, director of the Occidental Railway in Salvador. He had arrived from London, where the Salvadorean company had succeeded in its negotiations, and had secured the transfer to itself of the concessions and privileges possessed by a British company in regard to the management of the external debt of Salvador. That debt is assumed by the new company, which will promptly complete the building of the railroad to the capital of the Republic.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Don FELIPE SOLANO has utilized the fiber of the banana by making burlap and a sample lariat, which are to be sent to the Commercial Museums at Philadelphia. The purpose in view on making these articles was to show that the *maguey* is not the only natural product from which to manufacture cordage and material for bags and sacks.

Work on the railroad line from Santa Ana to San Salvador is being very energetically prosecuted, and the denizens of the latter city expect to greet the locomotive in a very short time. A large consignment of rails and a locomotive were received recently from England.

Samples of white ginger have been sent abroad for the purpose of endeavoring to discover whether it will secure a sufficient market to make its production on a large scale profitable.

The Ministry of Public Works is making an effort to introduce the cultivation of heniquén in the country.

It is the intention of the Government to make stenography an obligatory course in the schools of the Republic.

## SANTO DOMINGO.

## SHIPMENTS TO NEW YORK.

The Consul of the Dominican Republic at the port of New York sends the following statement of imports of Dominican products through the port named in October and November of 1899:

Articles.	October.		November.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sugar.....pounds..	610, 120	\$17, 326	352, 554	\$9, 656
Cacao.....do.....	5, 968	640	8, 600	1, 350
Coffee.....do.....	15, 324	1, 006	25, 400	1, 607
Wax.....do.....	8, 694	2, 105	4, 100	983
Tortoise shell.....do.....	64	298	8	18
Hides.....do.....	26, 826	2, 666	6, 500	628
Bones, etc.....do.....		94		
Goatskins.....do.....		5, 815		3, 794
Feathers.....do.....		300		
Honey.....gallons..	5, 524	2, 836	5, 155	2, 308
Cocoanuts.....do.....				43
Woods:				
Mahogany.....feet..	4, 200	644	40, 800	1, 224
Cedar.....do.....	2, 010		600	18
Espinillo.....do.....	3, 200			
Guayacan.....pounds.	22, 400		488, 320	4, 360
Bera.....do.....	56, 000	500	168, 000	1, 506
Logwood.....do.....	56, 000	500		
Total.....		34, 730		27, 495

## UNITED STATES.

## TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

## STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of November, 1899, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the eleven months ending November, 1899, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1898. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the complete returns for November, for example, are not published until some time in January.

## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Chemicals:</b>				
Logwood ( <i>Palo campeche; Páu campeche; Campeche</i> )—				
Mexico .....	\$2, 239	-----	\$12, 910	\$11, 995
Coal, bituminous ( <i>Carbón bituminoso; Carvão bituminoso; Charbon de terre</i> ):				
Mexico .....	20, 718	\$20, 561	194, 709	188, 698
Cocoa ( <i>Cacao; Coco ou Cacao crú; Cacao</i> ):				
Central America .....	511	-----	7, 413	1, 131
Brazil .....	127, 589	104, 429	420, 260	432, 523
Other South America .....	157, 397	96, 962	1, 170, 303	1, 441, 657
Coffee ( <i>Café; Cafê; Cafè</i> ):				
Central America .....	84, 524	49, 461	4, 165, 180	5, 097, 114
Mexico .....	73, 962	205, 848	2, 853, 714	2, 892, 212
Brazil .....	2, 593, 916	2, 287, 582	30, 923, 746	33, 542, 610
Other South America .....	446, 711	377, 954	7, 007, 301	6, 081, 520
Cotton, unmanufactured ( <i>Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé</i> ):				
South America .....	4, 948	8, 882	145, 471	128, 207
<b>Fibers:</b>				
Sisal grass ( <i>Henequen; Henequen; Hennequen</i> )—				
Mexico .....	730, 232	916, 723	7, 135, 011	7, 948, 030
Philippine Islands .....	86, 693	337, 559	2, 575, 841	3, 929, 030
<b>Fruits:</b>				
Bananas ( <i>Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes</i> )—				
Central America .....	124, 500	132, 349	1, 628, 480	1, 903, 524
South America .....	32, 739	50, 762	457, 990	930, 519
Oranges ( <i>Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges</i> )—				
Mexico .....	71, 367	91, 412	92, 664	157, 407
Fur skins ( <i>Pieles finas; Pelles; Fourrures</i> ):				
South America .....	5, 444	30, 322	91, 308	177, 822
Hides and skins ( <i>Queros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux</i> ):				
Central America .....	19, 968	19, 447	200, 996	322, 174
Mexico .....	103, 986	150, 957	1, 523, 025	1, 847, 363
South America .....	634, 319	1, 174, 113	8, 500, 517	9, 886, 382
India rubber, crude ( <i>Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut</i> ):				
Central America .....	49, 197	58, 373	493, 182	773, 082
Mexico .....	7, 253	12, 514	59, 078	169, 777
Brazil .....	1, 173, 795	2, 070, 908	11, 622, 908	16, 863, 996
Other South America .....	56, 580	144, 865	699, 780	994, 973
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. ( <i>Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em lingüados, barras, etc.; Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.</i> ):				
Mexico .....	101, 172	206, 513	1, 490, 771	1, 982, 748
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard ( <i>Azúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão hollandez; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16</i> ):				
Central America .....	3, 509	966	217, 020	173, 478
Mexico .....	676	142	44, 852	75, 047
Cuba .....	472, 904	7, 077	12, 282, 904	17, 664, 545
Brazil .....	-----	-----	2, 386, 886	681, 865
Other South America .....	739, 817	659, 411	4, 669, 483	4, 711, 288
Hawaiian Islands .....	956, 399	417, 756	16, 079, 464	21, 240, 168
Philippine Islands .....	93, 316	-----	1, 086, 499	910, 313
Tobacco, leaf ( <i>Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles</i> ):				
Mexico .....	20, 438	12, 235	274, 414	41, 896
Cuba .....	306, 322	679, 339	2, 536, 108	6, 096, 726
Wood, mahogany ( <i>Caoba; Mogno; Acajou</i> ):				
Central America .....	45, 000	31, 911	217, 658	284, 420
Mexico .....	20, 789	50, 250	264, 591	397, 452
Cuba .....	7, 200	2, 080	8, 133	64, 568
South America .....	2, 300	872	39, 103	19, 137

## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Wool ( <i>Lana; Lã; Laine</i> ):				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing) .....	\$4,590	\$1,091	\$539,174	\$541,505
Class 2 (combing) .....			19,126	101
Class 3 (carpet) .....	6,723	47,273	847,556	530,944

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements ( <i>Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles</i> ):				
Central America .....	\$485	\$118	\$6,095	\$6,022
Mexico .....	11,749	24,232	138,201	286,630
Santo Domingo .....	41		395	1,239
Cuba .....	1,761	11,242	5,789	104,444
Puerto Rico .....	120	666	797	5,581
Argentina .....	162,548	103,766	1,095,562	1,890,820
Brazil .....	4,657	2,754	25,131	31,524
Colombia .....	382	267	4,317	978
Other South America .....	2,612	38,452	250,968	285,894
Animals:				
Cattle ( <i>Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail</i> )—				
Central America .....	150	50	2,735	615
Mexico .....	15,905	17,317	91,406	128,038
South America .....	872	490	7,775	2,870
Hogs ( <i>Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons</i> )—				
Mexico .....	1,259	33,530	6,891	102,504
Horses ( <i>Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux</i> )—				
Central America .....	600		11,545	1,758
Mexico .....	9,135	11,219	91,910	84,767
South America .....	1,766	70	3,789	3,400
Sheep ( <i>Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons</i> )—				
Mexico .....	155	2,561	12,077	6,573
South America .....		250	9,293	7,742
Books, maps, engravings, etc. ( <i>Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.</i> ):				
Central America .....	1,130	2,163	27,456	43,210
Mexico .....	3,687	13,813	68,060	83,662
Santo Domingo .....	2,505	34	4,363	7,360
Cuba .....	2,578	2,517	9,695	56,543
Puerto Rico .....	1,122	1,265	4,720	16,831
Argentina .....	1,561	3,243	21,974	24,643
Brazil .....	928	12,962	46,013	59,765
Colombia .....	999	15,179	9,154	65,047
Other South America .....	33,034	6,946	97,295	57,765
Breadstuffs:				
Corn ( <i>Maiz; Milho; Maïs</i> )—				
Central America .....	2,000	1,797	52,143	33,393
Mexico .....	4,508	29,510	15,210	154,382
Santo Domingo .....			63	315
Cuba .....	11,122	48,335	250,934	434,281
Puerto Rico .....		1,128		1,379
South America .....	1,189	1,170	17,494	72,312
Wheat flour ( <i>Harina de trigo; Farinha de trigo; Farine de blé</i> )—				
Central America .....	66,030	68,195	1,086,560	798,998
Mexico .....	7,388	16,760	96,783	144,543
Santo Domingo .....	8,735	325	162,340	121,037
Cuba .....	121,307	210,140	1,181,652	1,874,793
Puerto Rico .....	31,088	123,635	336,956	576,669
Brazil .....	235,556	155,077	2,915,329	2,313,279
Colombia .....	18,089	24,556	330,979	407,529
Other South America .....	76,539	140,197	1,367,855	1,473,913
Wheat ( <i>Trigo; Trigo; Blé</i> )—				
Central America .....		1,700	37,828	17,244
South America .....	77,091	6,468	463,097	75,786

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of ( <i>Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties</i> ):				
Central America.....	\$5,847	\$889	\$46,814	\$16,299
Mexico.....	21,059	77,996	250,815	794,042
Santo Domingo.....	1,364	3,128	14,949	15,510
Cuba.....	24,221	26,455	44,588	164,999
Puerto Rico.....	650	12,262	2,152	22,059
Argentina.....	11,932	84,598	508,387	312,420
Brazil.....	1,815	8,404	559,202	198,319
Colombia.....		6,946	41,076	21,229
Other South America.....	1,529	3,644	75,358	46,873
Cycles and parts of ( <i>Biciclos y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accessorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties</i> ):				
Central America.....	152	159	6,687	4,642
Mexico.....	1,835	2,221	54,818	39,822
Santo Domingo.....			598	323
Cuba.....	566	13,759	4,496	91,302
Puerto Rico.....	210	170	2,561	2,648
Argentina.....	11,514	5,736	113,026	264,334
Brazil.....	5,037	2,399	93,738	31,313
Colombia.....		114	7,372	7,752
Other South America.....	4,441	4,836	47,188	60,717
Clocks and watches ( <i>Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres</i> ):				
Central America.....	360	206	4,950	2,321
Mexico.....	2,098	3,838	20,900	28,942
Argentina.....	2,215	1,096	25,688	24,770
Brazil.....	7,532	7,252	45,813	53,709
Other South America.....	8,706	9,464	85,302	70,135
Coal ( <i>Carbón; Carvão; Charbon</i> ):				
Central America.....	786	1,280	8,877	16,524
Mexico.....	85,992	123,130	1,001,745	1,338,047
Santo Domingo.....	766	626	9,887	8,366
Cuba.....	51,157	35,702	422,219	595,199
Puerto Rico.....		1,598	17,648	43,240
Brazil.....	5,286		135,287	99,785
Colombia.....		104	17,671	49,934
Other South America.....	12,636	20,462	135,323	76,503
Copper ( <i>Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre</i> ):				
Mexico.....	13,652	20,931	280,861	269,667
Cotton, unmanufactured ( <i>Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton, non manufacturé</i> ):				
Mexico.....	223,613	230,632	935,030	669,790
Cotton cloths ( <i>Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé</i> ):				
Central America.....	37,435	72,141	436,395	595,772
Mexico.....	37,604	43,461	405,094	949,350
Santo Domingo.....	12,281	1,689	136,401	144,191
Cuba.....	12,694	25,658	29,163	683,969
Puerto Rico.....	1,181	8,404	4,857	246,871
Argentina.....	23,841	18,822	171,753	124,740
Brazil.....	79,205	52,558	550,629	422,275
Colombia.....	36,385	22,190	265,018	355,966
Other South America.....	96,003	101,114	1,214,577	995,648
Wearing apparel, cotton ( <i>Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton</i> ):				
Central America.....	13,799	28,484	195,938	266,105
Mexico.....	30,244	28,593	339,393	408,438
Santo Domingo.....	3,100	1,069	21,954	15,217
Cuba.....	2,797	16,756	16,897	179,560
Puerto Rico.....	548	1,447	2,426	42,638
Argentina.....	11,944	501	49,690	38,178
Brazil.....	5,815	5,898	40,680	34,416
Colombia.....	3,177	3,522	56,912	40,306
Other South America.....	3,941	9,561	40,217	67,214
Fruits and nuts ( <i>Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noix</i> ):				
Central America.....	3,205	3,507	25,568	26,819
Mexico.....	9,335	8,541	59,906	67,169

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Fruits and nuts—Continued.</b>				
Santo Domingo.....	\$439	.....	\$931	\$529
Cuba.....	8,478	\$12,174	33,544	68,828
Puerto Rico.....	487	2,146	1,700	8,055
Argentina.....	35	146	8,005	14,810
Brazil.....	936	2,725	13,583	16,887
Colombia.....	690	1,459	6,895	8,802
Other South America.....	3,728	2,628	19,244	18,047
<b>Instruments:</b>				
Electric and scientific apparatus ( <i>Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Appareilhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques</i> )—				
Central America.....	5,997	6,544	66,152	57,532
Mexico.....	34,475	22,495	299,498	425,106
Argentina.....	11,715	28,945	161,310	281,583
Brazil.....	7,122	16,006	67,877	143,529
Other South America.....	5,048	17,144	102,565	122,775
<b>Iron and steel, manufactures of:</b>				
Steel rails ( <i>Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier</i> )—				
Central America.....	1,378	254	23,271	24,856
Mexico.....	53,928	26,692	609,036	445,336
South America.....	234	44,428	318,707	150,520
<b>Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (<i>Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	6,250	11,697	67,177	85,555
Mexico.....	21,687	42,503	330,854	417,585
Santo Domingo.....	552	2,979	10,064	8,342
Cuba.....	11,390	22,077	65,568	371,724
Puerto Rico.....	926	2,758	5,902	28,205
Argentina.....	14,553	29,663	188,486	243,103
Brazil.....	18,700	45,121	167,719	233,355
Colombia.....	8,013	4,331	83,456	116,589
Other South America.....	14,585	32,411	181,235	242,904
<b>Sewing machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accessorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	3,696	1,874	22,115	19,376
Mexico.....	10,545	17,393	182,092	270,362
Santo Domingo.....	108	17	1,636	1,386
Cuba.....	110	4,514	689	43,805
Puerto Rico.....	48	193	1,763	4,469
Argentina.....	16,341	2,460	84,502	143,061
Brazil.....	4,141	9,845	83,305	124,522
Colombia.....	7,482	830	67,366	41,212
Other South America.....	6,839	18,544	100,581	130,490
<b>Typewriting machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir e accessorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	537	281	1,753	2,160
Mexico.....	2,185	1,111	28,229	52,697
Santo Domingo.....	.....	.....	80	187
Cuba.....	1,358	2,488	2,678	25,933
Argentina.....	851	3,089	25,694	37,926
Brazil.....	113	1,973	4,583	9,912
Colombia.....	365	221	3,108	2,721
Other South America.....	978	1,961	13,992	24,492
<b>Leather, other than sole (<i>Cuero, distinto del de suela; Couro não para solas; Cuir, autres que pour semelles</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	482	1,166	8,305	12,828
Mexico.....	1,322	2,792	6,537	21,700
Santo Domingo.....	418	.....	1,047	1,074
Cuba.....	228	1,811	1,970	29,560
Puerto Rico.....	750	264	2,263	7,872
Argentina.....	1,245	2,971	16,465	47,077
Brazil.....	2,749	6,157	47,722	64,280
Colombia.....	.....	43	2,707	3,949
Other South America.....	2,265	2,752	18,790	37,263

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Boots and shoes (<i>Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	\$9,428	\$15,607	\$68,883	\$121,075
Mexico.....	15,152	30,128	102,534	287,945
Colombia.....	2,181	7,816	51,561	41,977
Other South America.....	6,163	3,605	37,326	25,615
<b>Naval stores:</b>				
Rosin, tar, etc. ( <i>Resina y alquitrán; Resina e aleatrão; Résine et goudron</i> )—				
Central America.....	1,154	10,026	15,206	13,118
Mexico.....	1,008	952	8,582	8,926
Santo Domingo.....	331	25	4,243	3,451
Cuba.....	354	766	5,117	11,957
Puerto Rico.....	86	465	695	1,335
Argentina.....	18,605	34,159	78,279	120,220
Brazil.....	11,018	15,052	157,876	193,539
Colombia.....	938	1,276	11,524	11,411
Other South America.....	15,140	7,341	89,560	62,195
<b>Turpentine, spirits of (<i>Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	386	493	2,988	4,877
Mexico.....	227	382	3,905	4,175
Santo Domingo.....	21	—	421	531
Cuba.....	1,369	6,160	11,409	50,977
Puerto Rico.....	453	403	1,359	4,789
Argentina.....	224	16,618	106,051	84,576
Brazil.....	1,593	2,876	63,254	56,152
Colombia.....	518	244	4,456	5,920
Other South America.....	978	7,191	54,728	60,239
<b>Oils, mineral, crude (<i>Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos minerales, crus; Huiles minérales, brutes</i>):</b>				
Mexico.....	32,825	37,882	274,209	393,566
Cuba.....	25,900	46,798	139,923	228,442
Puerto Rico.....	—	—	19,477	12,512
<b>Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (<i>Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	9,266	8,943	110,767	124,185
Mexico.....	10,242	19,686	148,584	196,084
Santo Domingo.....	1,558	796	36,261	32,785
Cuba.....	17,405	8,626	57,471	102,061
Puerto Rico.....	7,862	4,903	32,184	49,066
Argentina.....	28,676	141,679	822,199	1,010,815
Brazil.....	156,657	159,391	1,403,462	1,478,163
Colombia.....	5,624	6,906	95,885	126,730
Other South America.....	20,105	140,218	849,423	1,089,948
<b>Oils, vegetable (<i>Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetales; Huiles végétales</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	712	959	3,696	5,994
Mexico.....	55,018	95,546	351,565	625,548
Santo Domingo.....	1,512	199	29,415	27,743
Cuba.....	1,370	3,626	3,925	34,783
Argentina.....	700	1,570	11,349	33,924
Brazil.....	25,134	19,859	231,882	179,891
Other South America.....	3,591	13,301	94,887	114,896
<b>Paraffin and paraffin wax (<i>Parafina y cera de parafina; Parafina e cera de parafina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	1,399	1,058	26,325	25,583
Mexico.....	29,500	41,537	155,394	264,869
Brazil.....	926	3,747	10,219	14,238
Other South America.....	95	3,372	5,848	12,749
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:</b>				
Beef, canned ( <i>Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca em latas; Bœuf conservé</i> )—				
Central America.....	2,222	1,915	20,318	21,848
Mexico.....	1,033	2,581	12,817	20,754
Santo Domingo.....	—	—	37	98
Cuba.....	54	440	5,327	13,376
Argentina.....	76	—	581	1,484
Brazil.....	615	4,502	21,394	21,506
Colombia.....	438	1,519	4,794	7,325
Other South America.....	916	2,470	12,056	18,431

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—</b>				
Continued.				
Beef, salted or pickled ( <i>Carne de vaca salada en salmuera; Carne de vacca salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumure</i> )—				
Central America.....	\$3,309	\$1,967	\$33,998	\$34,303
Mexico.....	63	190	2,127	2,127
Santo Domingo.....	124	220	3,336	5,306
Cuba.....	1,836	2,110	13,503	23,657
Puerto Rico.....	212	184	460	1,829
Brazil.....	158	2,353	1,833	3,805
Colombia.....	803	2,873	11,750	18,376
Other South America.....	11,969	21,753	172,513	155,276
<b>Tallow (<i>Sebo; Sebo; Suif</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	6,894	6,096	88,636	81,467
Mexico.....	2,082	1,681	20,748	25,901
Santo Domingo.....	90	.....	18,797	16,167
Cuba.....	6,181	429	24,293	2,558
Puerto Rico.....	37	.....	404	377
Brazil.....	4,435	1,899	23,975	24,368
Colombia.....	558	1,787	8,206	18,296
Other South America.....	204	11,012	24,961	49,189
<b>Bacon (<i>Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,265	1,950	14,689	18,991
Mexico.....	1,077	1,565	10,813	20,040
Santo Domingo.....	54	11	2,029	1,990
Cuba.....	25,856	51,685	503,329	842,160
Puerto Rico.....	5,208	10,849	40,591	72,845
Brazil.....	28,745	12,068	441,228	175,330
Colombia.....	92	26	1,251	1,618
Other South America.....	875	181	16,796	12,113
<b>Hams (<i>Jamones; Presunto; Jambons</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,848	2,208	21,838	24,315
Mexico.....	2,448	4,209	25,618	35,468
Santo Domingo.....	264	49	6,180	5,784
Cuba.....	48,332	52,089	307,120	668,124
Puerto Rico.....	911	3,464	16,423	24,768
Brazil.....	97	712	3,657	3,325
Colombia.....	1,009	1,859	12,504	17,445
Other South America.....	9,563	7,285	67,519	76,385
<b>Pork (<i>Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	2,957	5,312	67,062	60,025
Santo Domingo.....	198	315	6,195	6,483
Cuba.....	3,031	47,719	15,725	138,390
Puerto Rico.....	12,677	30,559	128,170	190,912
Brazil.....	39	62	4,314	3,063
Colombia.....	397	1,659	7,711	31,196
Other South America.....	16,377	24,310	209,202	184,838
<b>Lard (<i>Manteca; Banha; Saindoux</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	10,949	13,701	160,928	157,228
Mexico.....	11,610	37,883	130,174	289,178
Santo Domingo.....	1,099	140	30,619	22,959
Cuba.....	90,054	131,752	965,454	1,654,608
Puerto Rico.....	15,190	27,878	197,151	229,552
Argentina.....	662	84	3,655	4,501
Brazil.....	123,034	74,535	1,071,054	919,338
Colombia.....	6,806	14,544	84,431	131,145
Other South America.....	39,302	65,422	593,630	659,809
<b>Oleo and oleomargarine (<i>Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Oleo et oléomargarine</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	277	589	1,627	4,235
Mexico.....	93	115	1,102	857
Puerto Rico.....	2,311	2,765	4,243	29,000
Colombia.....	715	1,197	8,090	11,590
Other South America.....	2,092	841	12,164	23,736
<b>Butter (<i>Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	3,874	4,888	42,458	44,940
Mexico.....	2,817	4,692	40,728	46,552
Santo Domingo.....	431	.....	10,035	7,100
Cuba.....	4,181	3,912	16,572	94,556
Puerto Rico.....	429	226	4,213	4,902
Brazil.....	18,659	24,429	105,966	204,825
Colombia.....	275	1,503	13,306	15,004
Other South America.....	6,978	3,694	97,344	168,356



## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	November—		Eleven months ending November—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—</b>				
Continued.				
<b>Cheese (<i>Queso; Queijo; Fromage</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	\$1,296	\$2,391	\$15,973	\$17,759
Mexico.....	1,358	3,439	13,705	23,181
Santo Domingo.....	207	60	4,205	4,129
Cuba.....	5,827	2,520	29,778	59,280
Puerto Rico.....	659	3,962	3,691	34,267
Brazil.....	120	35	490	252
Colombia.....	570	1,056	8,210	7,751
Other South America.....	1,333	1,162	14,225	12,536
<b>Sugar, refined (<i>Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	826	2,637	30,078	21,935
Mexico.....	236	1,620	13,123	56,175
Santo Domingo.....	70	13	1,040	732
Colombia.....	787	557	15,866	14,825
Other South America.....	243	.....	1,326	2,128
<b>Tobacco, unmanufactured (<i>Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	2,582	706	23,763	25,200
Mexico.....	20,233	16,142	122,525	149,852
Argentina.....	675	3,172	15,954	22,425
Colombia.....	191	.....	6,746	6,390
Other South America.....	5,817	8,516	95,824	94,763
<b>Tobacco, manufactures of (<i>Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	4,449	2,878	50,512	48,469
Mexico.....	1,842	300	26,665	15,416
Cuba.....	11,992	8,081	110,289	172,850
Argentina.....	1,063	1,075	2,845	17,829
Brazil.....	.....	.....	550	352
Colombia.....	.....	824	5,412	6,655
Other South America.....	12,357	1,742	77,150	52,718
<b>Wood, unmanufactured (<i>Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	892	638	24,662	21,657
Mexico.....	14,160	5,120	368,280	132,553
Cuba.....	13,230	305	28,591	48,045
Argentina.....	2,725	.....	14,404	14,251
Brazil.....	.....	.....	75	240
Colombia.....	891	816	26,033	15,584
Other South America.....	60	15,080	31,023	61,084
<b>Lumber (<i>Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	3,240	3,838	40,884	52,638
Mexico.....	47,836	76,077	672,949	903,075
Santo Domingo.....	1,743	72	28,098	33,881
Cuba.....	32,087	68,637	244,590	855,638
Puerto Rico.....	4,569	15,436	25,725	121,183
Argentina.....	106,551	75,181	880,046	904,056
Brazil.....	35,878	21,874	523,465	406,899
Colombia.....	3,185	8,090	43,108	61,373
Other South America.....	34,727	52,495	491,402	553,641
<b>Furniture (<i>Muebles; Mobilia; Meubles</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	2,126	2,396	37,516	34,224
Mexico.....	21,194	39,302	167,826	298,083
Santo Domingo.....	843	.....	8,070	6,609
Cuba.....	813	28,802	14,972	191,030
Puerto Rico.....	1,367	5,725	4,567	38,904
Argentina.....	10,300	4,555	51,787	96,203
Brazil.....	2,296	8,371	25,250	38,167
Colombia.....	1,819	1,241	22,888	25,981
Other South America.....	3,590	9,776	67,797	65,241

## FOREIGN COMMERCE IN NOVEMBER.

The detailed tables of the November, 1899, imports and exports were completed on December 27 by the Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department. The summary which accompanies them shows the foreign commerce of the month by great classes, compared with that of the corresponding month of last year, as follows:

## IMPORTS.

	1898.	1899.
Articles of food and live animals .....	\$15, 057, 768	\$17, 260, 329
Articles in a crude condition for domestic industry .....	16, 767, 452	36, 064, 684
Articles manufactured for use in the mechanic arts .....	4, 910, 237	8, 067, 680
Articles manufactured ready for consumption .....	8, 301, 376	9, 704, 402
Articles of voluntary use, luxuries, etc. ....	7, 059, 995	8, 924, 979
Total imports .....	52, 096, 560	70, 022, 074
Percentage of free imports .....	42. 48	44. 70

## EXPORTS.

Products of agriculture .....	\$94, 911, 831	\$80, 069, 161
Products of manufactures .....	26, 471, 131	33, 584, 546
Products of mining .....	2, 264, 678	3, 491, 845
Products of the forests .....	2, 827, 804	3, 710, 610
Products of the fisheries .....	951, 123	827, 618
Miscellaneous .....	47, 540	122, 036
Total domestic exports .....	127, 487, 547	121, 805, 816
Foreign goods reexported .....	2, 323, 853	1, 949, 600
Total exports .....	129, 797, 965	123, 755, 416

## PROPOSED GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO.

On January 13, 1899, Senator JOSEPH B. FORAKER introduced a bill in the United States Senate providing a form of government for the island of Puerto Rico. In this bill provision is made for the continuance of the laws and municipal ordinances now in force until the Legislature shall supplant them. The President is empowered to appoint a Governor and a Supreme Court, and also seven heads of Departments, to have charge of the various interests of the Government. Besides these, five native citizens are to be selected by the President, who, together with the Governor and the heads of the Departments, are to constitute the upper chamber of the Legislature. The lower branch is to consist of thirty-five members to be elected by the citizens of the island. The citizens are also to elect a Delegate to Congress who is to have a seat but no vote. One of the important provisions of the bill is one defining citizenship in the island. This provision grants citizenship to all subjects of Spain who were residents of the island on the 11th of April, 1899, and have continued to be such, and who by the 11th of April, 1900, have not signified their desire to preserve their Spanish allegiance.

The island is to be divided into five departments for judicial and legis-

lative purposes, and each department is to have a local court and consist of such a number of judges as the Legislature may make provision for. The Constitution and laws of the United States are extended to the island so far as the latter are really applicable. Export duties are prohibited, and free trade is provided for between the island and United States ports. Articles imported into Puerto Rico from other countries than the United States are to pay the same duties as are imposed in the ports of the United States. The money thus collected is to go to the treasury of the island, but money realized from internal-revenue collections is to be covered into the National Treasury of the United States. A commission of five members is provided for, two of whom are to be natives, to revise the system of laws and of judicial procedure for the time being. No franchises are to be granted except with the approval both of the Governor of the island and of the President of the United States. It is believed that this bill, or a modification of it, will become a law at the present session of Congress.

#### **MACHINERY BUILDING AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION.**

During the last week in November, 1899, there was shipped from East Berlin, Connecticut, a train load (27 cars) of structural machinery from the works of the Berlin Iron Bridge Company, consigned to the United States Commissioner at Paris. This material is for the steel framework of a machine shop to be used exclusively by the United States exhibitors of iron and wood-working machinery at the Paris Exposition of 1900. The building will be 343 feet long and 77 feet wide. It will be constructed of United States products, shipped in United States transports, will be erected by the mechanics of this country, who will go to Paris and put up the building complete, ready for the Exposition. The structure from foundation to spire, including all machinery, equipment, and everything within its walls, will be a United States exhibit manufactured by her citizens, showing United States machinery in practical operation with all modern appliances, including traveling cranes, hangers, shafting, electric motors, etc.

#### **RECENT ISLAND ACQUISITIONS—TUTUILA.**

Under the new Samoan treaty between the United States, Great Britain, and Germany, which was signed in Washington, December 2, 1899, and ratified on January 16, 1900, by the Senate, the United States becomes the possessor of some small islands 930 miles south of the equator in the South Pacific Ocean. These are Tutuila, Ofoo, Olosenga, and Manua. The most important of those named is Tutuila, the least known of the three principal islands which are generally spoken of as the Samoan group, lying about 30 miles southeast of the nearest of the other two—Savaii and Upolu—which by the same treaty become the possessions of Germany.

Tutuila is not more than 18 miles long and is about 5 miles wide at its broadest point, according to Mr. H. L. LUSK, who has visited it.

The population is estimated by the missionaries resident there to be a few more than 5,000. Nearly all of the native villages or groups of huts are near the northern shore, facing Upolu. The general appearance of Tutuila, like that of almost all volcanic islands, is very beautiful. The land rises abruptly from the seashore to a height estimated to be between 900 and 1,000 feet. The slopes are densely wooded, though the trees are nowhere of a very large growth, the undergrowth of bright-leaved shrubs, arrowroot, ginger, and pineapple plants forming a complete jungle which it is very difficult to penetrate.

The land slopes from the central ridge on the northern side of the island in a succession of spurs, with deep glens and water courses between; but on the southern side, especially near the eastern end of the island, the slopes end abruptly in cliffs and precipitous banks that descend to the ocean. It is here that Pago Pago Harbor—the finest and safest harbor in the entire Samoan group—lies. This is a large, nearly circular basin of perfectly smooth water, shadowed by the surrounding hills, having only one narrow entrance way, which winds between two lofty wooded bluffs. It is the only harbor in the group in which vessels can remain safely during a hurricane. It is asserted that the entire naval fleet of the United States could anchor at one time in its placid waters. For fifteen years Pago Pago Harbor has been a coaling station acquired by lease from a native chief by the United States Government, though it has only been visited by men-of-war at long intervals.

The products of the island are of a limited character. Cocoanuts grow along the shore everywhere and from them copra (sun-dried coconut) is made and exported in small quantities. Orange trees grow to large dimensions, and nutmeg trees flourish in the forests. Arrowroot, ginger plants, and pineapples are to be found on all sides. The natives live in primitive huts constructed principally of bark and matting or straw and do little work, for they find that nature provides food in abundance, scarcely any labor being required to prepare it for their use. They manufacture a peculiar paper-like substance from pulp, called *tapa*, which they use for the blinds and mats of their thatched huts. Wonderfully carved clubs and spears are also offered to the passengers of trans-Pacific steamers.

The language of the Samoans is particularly soft, the frequent use of the letters *f*, *s*, and *l*, in such words as *la-lai*, good; *alofa*, compassion, and *ma-alibi* being examples.

#### CLAIM AGAINST MEXICO DECLARED UNFOUNDED.

On December 11, 1899, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed the opinion of the Court of Claims in the case of the La Abra Silver Mining Company against the Republic of Mexico, holding that the claim, which was for about \$4,000,000, was fraudulent and unfounded.

The opinion was handed down by Justice HARLAN, who said in part

that the claim, as first presented to the American-Mexican Commission in 1870, was for \$1,950,000, but that it was afterwards enlarged to \$3,962,000. It was based on the allegation that damage to this amount had been done to the La Abra Company by Mexican authorities while the company was operating in the State of Durango, Mexico. The commission, through its umpire, Sir EDWARD THORNTON, had allowed \$683,041. After a part of the money allowed had been paid to the United States for the La Abra Company, the Mexican Government brought to the attention of the Department of State new evidence, representing the claim to be fraudulent. After various other proceedings Congress, in 1892, passed an act authorizing an investigation of the case by the Court of Claims, the act specifically directing the court to ascertain whether or not the claim was fraudulent and supported by false testimony. The Court of Claims found that the claim was based upon fraud.

This decision was affirmed by Justice HARLAN's opinion in the Supreme Court. He said that the evidence showed that the whole story of loss on account of the misconduct of the Mexican authorities was improbable and unfounded, and that the company, while bankrupt, was not so because of the official acts of Mexico. The effect of the opinion is to bar any further payment to the La Abra claimants.

In passing on the case the Justice incidently decided that the signature of the President attached to a bill during a recess of Congress, if attached within the constitutional ten days, renders an act so signed as valid as if Congress were in session. The point was raised for the purpose of attacking the constitutionality of the act of 1892 authorizing the investigation of the claims of the Court of Claims, which was approved during the Christmas holiday recess of 1892-93. Justice HARLAN said the essential requirement was that the President should sign a bill, and it could not be considered important whether the signature was attached during a recess or when Congress was actually sitting, if the act was done within the ten days' time allowed for Executive examination. However, the decision on this point did not cover the legality of Executive approval after the final adjournment of Congress, that point not having been raised.

#### BUSINESS FAILURES IN 1899.

"Bradstreets" of December 30, 1899, says: "The year's record of failures is an exceptional one, and were it not for a few large failures in the last two months of the year, would be fairly entitled to the appellation phenomenal."

According to the same authority of January 6, "the final summing up of business mortality for 1899 shows total failures numbering 9,634, an amount fewer by 17.2 per cent than those of 1898; 26.4 per cent smaller than those of 1897; 36.2 per cent less than those of 1896; 26 per cent less than 1895; 25 per cent fewer than in 1894; 38 per cent less

than in 1893, and 6 per cent smaller even than in 1892, a year of fragrant memory in the annals of trade and commerce." With the exception of 1892 the liabilities were the smallest recorded since 1866. The aggregate for the year was \$191,730,593, the actual assets being \$60,191,696.

#### COINAGE AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINT.

At the United States Mint, Philadelphia, 122,790,528 coins were made in 1899, representing a value of a little more than \$65,000,000. In addition to the coinage for the United States, work was done for Costa Rica and Santo Domingo. The total number of gold coins executed for the United States was 4,669,768, valued at \$54,632,750. The silver pieces coined numbered 38,075,384, representing a value of \$8,214,565. The coins of the baser metals, nickel and copper, were issued in great numbers. Five-cent pieces to the value of \$1,301,451.55—26,029,031 pieces—and \$536,000.31 worth of cents—53,600,031 pieces—were minted. For Santo Domingo 241,314 silver *pesos* were coined. For Costa Rica the mint coined 25,000 twenty *colon* pieces (\$9,307 United States currency); 50,000 ten *colon* pieces, and 100,000 five *colon* pieces, all gold coins, with a valuation of \$608,023.26.

#### NEW RULES FOR MONEY ORDERS.

On January 2 there were put in force in the United States three different schedules of fees charged for the issuance of international money orders, as follows: (1) The domestic fees for orders payable in Cuba and Puerto Rico; (2) the intermediate special rate for orders payable in Mexico, and (3) the regular international fees as published in the postal laws and regulations. The second schedule, which is a new one, was framed under a convention held last September, authorizing the direct exchange of international postal money orders with the Republic of Mexico. On the part of the United States the post-office at Laredo, Texas, will hereafter act as an international exchange office, and on the part of Mexico the post-office at Nuevo Laredo will act in like manner as the exchange office. The amount of money orders drawn in the United States must be expressed in the orders in the United States currency and the amount of money orders issued in Mexico will be expressed in Mexican currency.

#### MUSEUM OF ANCIENT RELICS FROM MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

It is announced that the Museum of Natural History in the city of New York (Central Park, West) has now on exhibition in Mexican Hall the best collection in the world of objects relating to the old civilization of Mexico and Central America. The work of making this collection has been going on for years, and the exhibit has been brought together as the result of two expeditions sent expressly to gather them and of other explorations and collections, including casts of monu-

ments and buildings found in Yucatan, Guatemala, and other countries. Some of these castings are of immense size, and many of them are of extreme interest and great importance. The collection also includes lithographic reproductions of illuminated Mexican and Maya manuscripts carried by the Spaniards to Europe and scattered in various European libraries and other depositories. These were traced and reproduced in facsimile by and at the expense of the Duc DE LOUBAT and are now for the first time brought together where they may be studied to advantage.

#### IMMENSE CONTRACT FOR LUMBER.

"Tenders and Contracts" (London) of December 12, 1899, contains a statement which would seemingly corroborate an item that recently appeared in the "New York Sun" with regard to a contract entered into by the British Government with a firm in Beaumont, Texas, to supply the former with 500,000,000 feet of pine lumber. "The magnitude of the contract," says the journal named, "at first excited incredulity, because that amount of lumber would make it necessary to dispatch a vessel carrying 800,000 feet every day for two years and will require a fleet of 100 vessels in constant employment. But it seems to be true. The contract was kept as secret as possible until arrangements could be made with other firms, and it is now so fixed that twenty mills work on the contract, each cutting 40,000 feet per day. The lumber is for Mr. CECIL RHODES'S "Cape to Cairo Railway." It is understood that most of the shipments are to be made from Sabine, Texas, which is a most convenient place for goods from Louisiana and Texas."

#### THE SILK INDUSTRY IN NEW JERSEY.

The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics for the State of New Jersey has compiled special information relative to the silk industry in that State. More than \$20,000,000 capital is invested in the business and the number of separate concerns is larger than heretofore, while the value of the product is nearly double what it was ten years ago in spite of the fact that the tendency during this period has been to locate important branches of the industry in other States. In the number of employees there has been an increase of over 100 per cent, rising from 12,500 in 1880 to over 26,000 in 1899. During the latter year the operatives received in wages \$10,650,789, those earning \$10 a week and more numbering about 9,000. Of the wage-earners employed in 1890, 52 per cent were females and 48 per cent males. Last year 45 per cent were females and 55 per cent males. The value of goods produced in 1899 was \$42,570,690, nearly double the value of the product ten years ago. The higher grades of silk are now made almost entirely in the State of New Jersey.

**SALES OF COFFEE ON THE NEW YORK EXCHANGE.**

The total sales of coffee on the New York Coffee Exchange during the year 1899 were 4,420,000 bags as compared with 4,213,000 bags in 1898 and 4,028,250 bags in 1897, an increase over 1898 of 207,000 bags. The highest quotation in spot Rio No. 7 was 7 cents in November, the lowest quotation being  $5\frac{7}{8}$  cents in September. The highest price in futures was reached in December, when October deliveries for 1900 sold at 6.65 cents. The lowest price for futures was in September, when October deliveries for 1900 sold at 4.10 cents.

**AMERICAN EXHIBITORS AT PARIS.**

Commissioner-General Peck, of the United States Commission to the Paris Exposition, has issued a list of the principal commercial exhibitors in the United States who have accepted space in the Exposition assigned to them by the Commissioner-General. The list contains the names of 1,095 persons, firms, or corporations, but does not include exhibitors on record in agriculture, mines, literature and periodicals, science, fine arts, religious, charitable and other associations, schools, colleges, etc. Such a list would include the names of about 7,000 exhibitors. A complete list arranged by groups and classes will appear in the official catalogue now in process of preparation.

**IMITATION U. S. BRANDS ON FOREIGN GOODS.**

A number of New England manufacturers are trying to learn the identity of those persons who have foisted on the South American market a clever imitation of their registered brands of flannels. It is also said that wares in other lines have been put upon the market by European manufacturers, and that the fields where the counterfeits are mostly met with are in South America and in the far east (China, Japan, etc.).

The case in question was called to the attention of the representatives of a United States manufacturer by a correspondent in Valparaiso, Chile. The latter was familiar with the style of the mill's output and was puzzled at the evident deterioration of the goods. Looking closer at the brand he saw that words had been misspelled, and other twistings resorted to which might escape the charge of fraud, but at the same time would deceive the eye inexperienced in the English language.

A quiet but persistent search is being made for the offenders. It has progressed so far that the objectionable flannel has been traced across the water.

Some years ago a number of Consuls at Continental points called the attention of the Washington authorities to procedures similar to the above. The case now under mention may, it is hinted, assume an international aspect.



### HAWAII'S SUGAR PRODUCT.

HAROLD SEWALL, late United States Minister to Hawaii, has reported to the Department of State from Honolulu that the total sugar product of the Hawaiian Islands for the season of 1899 was 304,603 tons, or 50,000 tons more than the estimate given by the celebrated German statistician, LICHT, of Magdeburg.

The total imports of commodities in the islands for 1899 amounted to \$15,945,349, an increase of \$5,973,753 compared with the previous year.

### CUBA'S EXHIBIT AT PARIS IN 1900.

Señor DEMETRIO ALBERTINI has been appointed secretary of the commission in charge of the Cuban exhibit at the Paris Exposition in 1900. Señor ALBERTINI is to receive a salary of \$250 per month. The Secretary of War of the United States has allotted \$25,000 for the expenses of the exhibit, to be paid out of the revenues of Cuba.

### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The House of Representatives has recognized the importance of the questions relating to the new possessions of the country by creating a Committee of Insular Affairs. This Committee is composed of seventeen members, and to it will be referred all matters—with the exception of those which affect revenues and appropriations—which appertain to Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and also to Cuba. The Senate has appointed three smaller committees for the consideration of insular affairs.

ALFRED DUTTENHOEFER, who is at the head of a grain firm, with houses at Mannheim and Duesberg, Germany, in November purchased several hundred thousand dollars worth of wheat in Kansas, which will be forwarded to Europe over the pier of Galveston, Tex. Mr. DUTTENHOEFER says that the partial failure of the European wheat crop and the poor quality of the grain there has caused his country to turn to the United States for its supplies.

Experiments are to be made in Hawaii with a new leprosy cure, which is said to have accomplished remarkable results. It is the product of a Venezuelan shrub, the culture of which has been introduced in the islands under the care of Dr. CARMICHAEL, of the United States Marine Hospital, who has been directed by the authorities at Washington to make experiments with it.

The cold-storage warehouse which the Government of the United States will erect at Manila, Philippine Islands, will be 245 feet square and two stories high. It will have a capacity of 5,000 carcasses of beef, 7,000 carcasses of mutton, 100 tons of bacon, 50 tons of butter, 100 tons of vegetables, and an ice-making capacity of 40 tons per day.

A very valuable accession has just been made to the anthropological collections at Yale University. The collection of specimens embraces Mexican and Guatemalan antiquities, numbering about 350. These came from Sempoala, State of Vera Cruz, Mexico, and Tacala, Guatemala. Special importance is attached to the latter antiquities.

The latest use discovered for the automobile is for towing canal boats. The "Exporters and Importers' Journal" of December 9, 1899, says that an automobile is being constructed in Hatton, Connecticut, at a cost of \$4,000, that will tow from six to ten boats at once on the Erie Canal.

The Philadelphia Export Exposition yielded considerably more money from attendance than had been expected. This has enabled the committee of management to repay \$100,000 that had been advanced by a few prominent citizens.

## URUGUAY.

### THE ANNUAL WOOL CLIP.

From sources regarded as authentic, the following statistics with reference to the wool crop of the Republic are obtained; the average number of kilos (2.2046 pounds each), the average price in Uruguayan currency for 10 kilos, and the average price per pound in cents United States currency are given in the table, the figures for 1899-1900 being estimated:

Year.	Kilos.	Average per 10 kilos.	Average per pound.
			<i>Cents.</i>
1894-95 .....	39, 157, 550	\$2. 17	10
1895-96 .....	50, 765, 400	1. 90	9
1896-97 .....	42, 850, 650	2. 54	12
1897-98 .....	51, 878, 525	2. 27	11
1898-99 .....	46, 400, 500	2. 63	12½
1899-1900 .....	44, 000, 000	5. 37	25

The prices given are for *mestizo* (crossed breed) fleece wool, and the total production includes the *criolla* (native breed) and low grades, including belly wool. So far as contracted for the prices for the clip of the current year are reported to be double what they were last year, but the total number of kilos may not be so great as is given in the above table. This estimate would give a total of \$24,250,600 as the value of the present clip if it were all *mestizo* wool. At any rate, the income from wool will be about double what it was the previous year.

### ESTIMATE OF FOREIGN COMMERCE.

Señor ENRIQUE GRADIN, Director-General of Customs, has made an estimate of the foreign commerce of the Republic for the twelve months beginning with November 15, 1899, and ending on November 14, 1900. This was with reference to the new import and export duties sanctioned for the "port fund," and was based on the actual imports and exports for the previous twelve months, but assigning to the exports their current value.

With this as a basis, Señor GRADIN estimates the value of the exports as follows: Live-stock products, \$41,172,663 (\$19,685,550 attributed to wool, a gain of \$2,400,000); agricultural products, \$2,273,477; all other products, \$431,313, a total of \$43,877,453, against \$30,276,916 in 1898. The imports for the same period are estimated in round figures at \$25,000,000, making a total estimate of \$68,877,453 as the foreign commerce for the period named. The extra duties on this total (which has never been equaled)—1 per cent on the exports from November 15, 1899, and 3 per cent on the imports from January 1, 1900—are estimated at \$420,774 and \$702,000, respectively, or \$1,122,774. This latter amount is in excess of the Congressional estimate of \$1,000,000 per annum. Much depends on the wheat crop and the maintenance or increase in the price of wool as to whether the Director-General's estimate is verified.

### TRANSLATION OF THE PORT LAWS.

The Government of Uruguay has intrusted the translation of the Montevideo port laws into the French language to Señor SAENZ DE URROGA; into the German language to Herr S. SCHRÖDER, and into the English language to Mr. A. HORNE LAVALLE. The laws in the Spanish language, accompanied by a geographical map of the Republic and a reduced copy of the general Guérard plan of the port, are to be bound, together with the translations in the other languages named, into one document for circulation by the various Uruguayan Legations in other countries. Besides this it is stated that the Government had applied to the United States, British, French, German, Italian, Belgian, and Dutch Legations in Montevideo for information respecting the principal engineering or construction firms of their countries, with the object of sending them copies of all the literature with reference to the port scheme.

### TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

Most of the agricultural machinery sold in Uruguay, says the "Moniteur Officiel" of November 30, 1899, is of American manufacture. The machines which are in greatest demand are:

Of the plows the "Collins" make is preferred and almost exclusively employed in Montevideo. The "Brabant" plows are not accepted in Montevideo, being too heavy and of a too complicated mechanism for the

nature of the soil. Almost all of the reapers and binders are of United States manufacture, with the exception of the English "Hornsby," which competes successfully. It is difficult to establish any preference between the "McCormick," "Denin," "Buckeye," "Toronto," or other types imported into Montevideo, as they are all of a practical use. These agricultural implements cost, delivered at Montevideo, from \$130 to \$140, and are sold at \$180 to \$195 each. The thrashers used are mostly of English make and especially constructed with a view to the needs of the country.

The reapers are from the United States, very few of English manufacture being sold. The cost, delivered at Montevideo, is \$45 to \$50, and the selling price \$70 to \$75.

The wine pressers are of Italian or French make, generally costing from \$25 to \$150, and selling at from \$33 to \$210. The winnowers or fanning machines are of different types of American, English, and German make. The cost delivered at Montevideo is from \$22 to \$40, the selling price from \$30 to \$55. The straw cutters are of United States, English, and German manufacture, the price varying from \$18 to \$55. The feed mills are of the same make as the straw cutters and cost from \$4.50 to \$18, selling at \$6.60 to \$25. The cream separators employed in Montevideo come from Denmark and Germany. The cost for one of a capacity of 70 liters is \$32; the selling price is \$45. The pumps are of German, American, and English manufacture, the price varying according to the system and power. "Fairbanks's" scales are most used, a scale of 300 kilograms costing \$18 and selling at \$24.

A duty of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on the machinery plus 1 per cent of the amount of the invoice is imposed at the port of entry.

#### IMPORTATION OF TABLE SALT.

In one of his recent reports to the Department of State at Washington, Mr. ALBERT W. SWALM, United States Consul at Montevideo, writes concerning the importation of table salt. He says that almost all of the salt for table use is imported from England, the most popular brand being the "Morton," put up in 2-pound glass-stoppered bottles. It is received in cases of two dozen bottles each, which cost, duty paid, \$1.85 United States money. The London price is 65 cents. This salt retails at 20 cents per bottle and has a good market. Another kind comes from Liverpool in bags of 44 pounds and costs, duty paid, 68 cents per bag. This salt has a large retail trade and is sold either in bulk or put up into small 2-pound bags. Owing to the dampness of the climate it is necessary that cloth be used for these inclosures, as paper cartons soon break to pieces. The duty on salt is  $38\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on a valuation of 5 cents per pound in cans, jars, or packages, including the weight of the package. Fine loose salt is offered at \$1.35 per 100 pounds and the duty is  $38\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

### RATIFICATION OF TREATY WITH GERMANY.

During the latter part of December, 1899, the Department of State at Washington received a report from Consul SWALM at Montevideo, calling attention to the ratification of treaty between Uruguay and Germany. The agreement between the two countries is in reality a reestablishment of the treaty of 1892, which was denounced in 1897. According to the terms of the treaty, citizens and products of each country receive the most-favored-nation treatment in the other country, except that Uruguay is permitted to make commercial arrangements with adjoining countries for products that do not compete with those of German origin.

### COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

As reported by the Consul-General of Uruguay, the exports to that country for the last half of the year 1899 from New York were valued at \$939,082.26; for the first six months of the year they were valued at \$554,091.92, making a total for the year of \$1,493,174.18. These figures show an increase of exports from New York during the second half year over the first six months of 1899 of \$384,990.34. The exports from New York to Uruguay during the year 1898 were valued at \$1,002,155.78, showing an increase for the year 1899 of \$491,018.40. No returns have been received from the other ports of the United States.

### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

"El Comercio Español," of Montevideo, furnishes some curious statistics regarding Spanish industry in the Republic. It says that there are 9,202 Spanish subjects in the country owning urban and suburban properties representing an investment of 31,373,712 *pesetas*. There are also 4,210 Spaniards established in the country as merchants and manufacturers who, according to their own declarations before the office of the collector of direct taxes, have an aggregate capital of 12,804,380 *pesetas*.

The Cabinet has recently discussed a scheme presented by J. J. CASTRO (ex-Minister of Promotion), of Messrs. ROSELLS & Co., for the erection of eighty new schoolhouses in different parts of the Republic on terms favorable to the State. The project is said to have been received with favor and is to be referred to the Dirección of Public Instruction of the Republic with a view to ultimately submitting it to the Chamber of Representatives.

According to the "South American Journal," a curious proposal has been made to the Government, namely, that it should procure an official phonograph to be kept at the Museum of Montevideo for the purpose of preserving a record of the voices of the Presidents, writers,

poets, and other celebrities of the Republic. The idea, the Journal believes, is not a bad one and might be advantageously employed.

A very interesting fête was established at Liebig's factory at Fray Bentos on November 7, 1899. At that time silver medals were distributed to the employees who had been in the company's service for twenty-five years or more. There were 59 recipients, some of them being the first persons employed at the factory. In addition, \$4,000 was distributed to the operatives.

According to the "Nacion," the customs authorities recently published an elaborate statement comparing the importations and receipts from customs in the years 1889 and 1898. The object of this publication is to show that the diminution in the imports is due solely to the increase in home manufactories and does not indicate a decrease in consumption.

It is reported that after a discussion by the Senate of the bill for the reestablishment of a Legation in the United States, it was sanctioned in the following form: "There shall be reestablished a second-class Legation in the United States, the Minister receiving the same salary as the Minister in Germany, until provided for in the budget."

The Uruguayan Legation in Berlin has notified the Government at Montevideo that the German Government proposes to send to the Republic a special commissioner to study the financial and commercial conditions of the country and to report on the public works in existence and those that are proposed.

The President of the Republic of France has issued a decree authorizing the promulgation of the protocol signed at Montevideo on June 24, 1898, between France and Uruguay, confirming the "Treaty of Commerce and Navigation" concluded between the two countries on July 4, 1892.

"El Siglo," of Montevideo states that a resident of the Department of Trienta y Tres recently discovered several deposits of anthracite coal which burns perfectly and is equal to the best forge coal. He also discovered some deposits of iron, almost pure, in the form of outcroppings.

The Government recently appointed seven "technical commissions" to make surveys for roads in the interior of the Republic. Four of these bodies are now at work in the Departments of Rio Negro, Salto, Florida, and Caneboes.

The City Council of Montevideo has determined to furnish electrical traction to the public, and it is expected that the work of converting the old lines will soon be begun.

A commercial treaty *ad referendum* was concluded in November last between the diplomatic representatives of Great Britain in Montevideo and the Uruguyan Government.

The President has promulgated the law approving the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with Germany, and has ordered the exchange of the corresponding ratifications.

The Arbitration Treaty with the Argentine Republic has been approved in general terms by the Chamber of Representatives.

## VENEZUELA.

### NEW CABINET.

The Cabinet of General CIPRIANO CASTRO, President of the Republic of Venezuela, is constituted as follows:

Minister of the Interior .....	Dr. J. FRANCISCO CASTILLO.
Minister of Foreign Affairs.....	Dr. R. ANDUEZA PALACIO.
Minister of Finance.....	Gen. R. TELLO MENDOZA.
Minister of War and Marine.....	Gen. JOSÉ IGNACIO PULIDO.
Minister of Fomento .....	Gen. CELESTINO PERAZA.
Minister of Public Works .....	Gen. VÍCTOR RODRÍGUEZ.
Minister of Public Instruction .....	Dr. MANUEL CLEMENTE UR-
	BANEJA.
Governor of the Federal District.....	Gen. JULIO F. SARRÍA.
Secretary General to the President of the Republic.....	Dr. JULIO TORRES CÁRDENAS.

### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AT LA GUAYRA.

The collector of the port of La Guayra, Venezuela, has favored the Bureau of the American Republics with the trade statistics of that port for the first half of the fiscal year of 1898-99, which are too voluminous for full reproduction, but which may be epitomized as follows:

*Imports.*—From the United States, 131,351 packages, valued at 7,181,105.87 *bolivars*; from France, 47,336 packages, valued at 2,751,863.20 *bolivars*; from Germany, 59,100 packages, valued at 4,907,895.50 *bolivars*; England, 25,653 packages, valued at 3,318,972.64 *bolivars*; Italy, 17,443 packages, valued at 802,961 *bolivars*; Spain, 10,939 packages, valued at 1,127,900.32 *bolivars*; Holland, 17,727 packages, valued at 914,692.35 *bolivars*; Colombia, 33 packages, value not given. Total imports: Packages, 309,582; invoice value, 21,005,390.88 *bolivars*, upon which the duties and the surcharge of 12½ per cent amounted to 7,512,096.41 *bolivars*.

*Exports.*—To the United States, 48,451 packages, valued at 854,518.23 *bolivars*; to France, 64,581 packages, valued at 3,557,468.70 *bolivars*;

to Germany, 35,140 packages, valued at 712,375.74 *bolivars*; to England, 1,938 packages, valued at 50,912.20 *bolivars*; to Italy, 1,225 packages, valued at 89,313.75 *bolivars*; to Holland, 1,358 packages, valued at 20,513.80 *bolivars*; to Spain, 1,618 packages, valued at 120,398.62 *bolivars*; to Hungary, 247 packages, valued at 15,180 *bolivars*. Total exports: Packages, 154,558, valued at 5,420,681.04 *bolivars*, upon which duties were paid to the amount of 257,048.59 *bolivars*.

The coastwise trade for the same period was as follows: Entered, 7,109,624 kilograms, valued at 2,818,081 *bolivars*. Cleared, 3,123,545 kilograms, valued at 7,080,011.72 *bolivars*.

#### NEW CONSUL-GENERAL.

Señor ELIAS GONZALES ESTEVES, the newly appointed Consul-General, has arrived in New York and taken possession of the Consulate. He is the successor of Señor ANTONIO E. DELFINO, who was extremely popular with United States merchants and manufacturers interested in Venezuelan trade. The Bureau of the American Republics has sustained extremely pleasant relations with Mr. DELFINO, and has received many personal and official courtesies at his hands within the last few years, the continuance of which is of importance to the work of the Bureau. Mr. DELFINO will remain in New York several months before leaving for Venezuela.

#### RECENT CUSTOMS DECREES.

In confirmation of the dispatch published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for December, 1899, the Department of State at Washington has received from Hon. FRANCIS B. LOOMIS, United States Minister at Caracas, under date of December 6, 1899, copies of recent customs decrees, one abolishing the law increasing the import duties 20 per cent, passed by the last Venezuelan Congress, and also the Executive decrees of June 17 and June 21, 1899, and imposing duties on foreign merchandise according to the tariff which was in force until August 31, 1899; the other imposing a duty of 10 *bolivars* (\$1.93) per head on cattle exported.

A telegram was received by the Department of State on January 9, 1900, from Minister LOOMIS, which reads as follows: "Venezuela to-day imposes extra emergency duty on many articles—flour 1½ cents per pound, butter 6 cents."

#### AN ACTIVE CORRESPONDENT.

Señor MANUEL LANDAETA ROSALES, the Corresponding Member of the International Union of the American Republics at Caracas, has published a notice to all persons engaged in commerce, agriculture, cattle raising, manufacturing, the arts, and in business in general to furnish him with data regarding their respective businesses, in order that he may forward the same to the Bureau of the American Republics. He



also requests all publishers of books, pamphlets, etc., upon any subject to transmit the same to him, so as to forward them to the Bureau in turn. The BULLETIN expects soon to receive valuable information and statistics, through the efforts of its distinguished correspondent, which it will lay before its readers.

#### ORINOCO IRON ORE.

On January 6 the British steamer *Tresco* arrived at Baltimore with 700 tons of iron ore from Manoa, where deposits of this mineral are being developed about 70 miles from the mouth of the Orinoco River. This vessel is said to be the first merchantman to load ore there. The shippers were the Orinoco Iron Company. The mouth of the Orinoco River is now being surveyed by the United States steamship *Dolphin*, and it is stated that it will take from three to six months to complete this work.

#### CHANGE IN MINING LAWS.

Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHER, United States Consul at Maracaibo, transmitted to the Department of State, at Washington, under date of November 27, 1899, a translation of a decree abolishing the resolution of October 20, 1898, as not in accordance with the mining code which prescribes the exemption of duties on machinery and articles imported for the exploitation of mines.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Minister LOOMIS, under date of November 28, 1899, sent the Department of State at Washington a translation of a recent decree, according to which masters of foreign vessels in Venezuelan ports are at liberty to deposit their papers with the consular officers of their respective countries, instead of with the port officials, as the usage has been.

A dispatch from Caracas, dated January 8, 1900, states that the foreign bankers of that city propose to advance General CASTRO'S Government 16,000,000 *bolivars*, provided the salt mines are turned over to them as a guaranty of the payment of the loan.

A German-Venezuelan Company, with offices in Cologne, Germany, has been formed for the purpose of exploiting the important sulphur mines near Campaño, Venezuela.

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### LATIN AMERICA IN 1899—A REVIEW.

The year 1899 was an eventful one to all of the countries comprising the International Union of American Republics. Fortunately the commercial and financial trend of all, generally speaking, has been forward, and the ties which unite them have been materially strengthened.

Though dissensions have marred the internal quiet of some of them during the past twelve months and have interfered with their foreign commerce, the close of the year finds order restored throughout the Republics (with one exception) and the outlook bright for internal harmony and commercial prosperity in 1900. The relation between the several Latin-American Republics and the United States have never been more fraternal, and at no previous time have the former been more impressed with the advantages offered by the latter.

It would seem from the course of events that that period was more nearly approaching which was pictured by the original promoter of the International Union, Mr. BLAINE, who said: "It will be a great gain when we shall acquire that common confidence on which all international friendship must rest. It will be a greater gain when we shall be able to draw the people of all American nations in close acquaintance with each other, an end to be facilitated by more frequent and more rapid intercommunication. It will be the greatest gain when the personal and commercial relations of the American States, south and north, shall be so developed and so regulated that each shall acquire the highest possible advantage from the enlightened intercourse of all."

During the year the Bureau of the American Republics has endeavored, for the common benefit of all and with fidelity to the wise purpose of its creation, to extend its influence as an agency conducted on practical lines for promoting commerce and friendly intercourse between the Republics of the Western Hemisphere. It will therefore not be out of place to give a retrospect of the happenings in each of the Latin-American countries, as they have been noted by the MONTHLY BULLETIN in the course of the year, though the articles were not originally prepared with this end in view and though the review must necessarily consist of but a brief outline of the principal events.

*Argentine Republic.*—The year 1899 may be said to have been a prosperous one for the Argentine Republic. Her trade with the United States has been marked by considerable movement in the way of agricultural machinery, more having been shipped from the ports of the former nation than ever before, and the steps made by each country toward a better commercial understanding have been many and fruitful. The financial condition of the country has improved and the outlook for the future is encouraging.

Almost at the outset of the year a large number of cattle breeders and promoters petitioned the Government to include in the matters to be submitted to Congress a bill authorizing a line of steamers to be built especially for the carrying of cattle, frozen meat, and butter, equipped with the latest designs in the way of refrigerators. The bill as framed provided that vessels during hostilities should act as auxiliary cruisers to the Navy, and that at least one-fourth of the crew should be native Argentiniens.

Among the more notable events of the past twelvemonth may be

mentioned the introduction into the Argentine Republic, by the Government, of trolley cars built in the United States especially designed to carry beef, etc., from the Federal packing houses in the suburbs of Buenos Ayres and elsewhere to the butchers' shops and markets.

The Argentine Industrial Congress, originally to be held in May, was postponed to October. The opening session took place on the 12th of that month. This body was suggested by the progress noticeable of late years in every branch of human knowledge and activity in this great South American Commonwealth. Its main purpose was to give the manufacturer, farmer, cattle raiser, etc., an opportunity to advance his particular line of industry by meeting others similarly interested and discussing the causes hindering business expansion and endeavoring to discover means to obviate and overcome difficulties. Papers upon the many subjects within the programme of this Congress were presented by Argentinians and foreigners, and the results of the debates and deliberations will be published in convenient form during this year.

The new custom-house law which was promulgated by the President of the Republic one day before the close of the year 1898, and which went into effect with the advent of the year under review, removed a number of restrictions to trade and is reported to have been fairly beneficent in its operations.

Reports from the agricultural districts show that the usually infested regions were fairly exempt from the yearly visitations of that terrible plague of the Argentine farmer, the locust. The crops were good. The total wheat crop for the year was estimated at 2,200,000 tons, and the exports at 1,400,000 tons. The estimated quantity of corn exported or ready for export was 2,000,000 tons.

The settlement of the boundary controversy between Chile and the Argentine Republic by the award of Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, late United States Minister to the former country, on March 24, among other good results, brought about an order from the Government to its military commissioner in Germany to secure from Herr KRUPP 500 kilometers of Decauvel railway instead of the guns and armament previously ordered but not delivered. The railway is intended for Patagonia.

The Argentine Congress met on May 1. The message of President Don JULIO A. ROCA was a glowing picture of faithful efforts to overcome the effects of the crisis through which the country has been passing for some years. Several wise suggestions were made tending to minimize the effects of the financial situation which it is expected will bear fruit in the near future. One of the immediate results of the recommendations of the President was the passage on October 29 by the Chamber of Deputies of the Conversion Bill, the main object of which is to arrest the further appreciation of the currency, to sell the Trans-Andean Railway in the hope of receiving £1,400,000, to issue £1,500,000 national *cedulas* in the London market, and lastly to nego-

tiate over £1,000,000 of "Home Debt Stock" of 1891. Two days previously the Chamber also passed the Government Bill fixing the conversion of paper money at the rate of 44 *centavos* gold per dollar so soon as there shall be enough specie on hand to permit such conversion.

A new Government bureau was created, to be known as the "Demographic Bureau of the Republic," which is a dependency of the Ministry of the Interior, and the functions of which are to collect the demographic statistics of the Territories and Provinces and publish them in the "*Boletín Demográfico Nacional*," which is now being issued quarterly, but which will issue as occasion demands in the future.

The figures and results of the second national census, taken in 1895, were published early in the year in three large volumes replete with instructive matter, which were reviewed in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for August.

The mining industry has been greatly revived during the year by reason of new discoveries of mineral deposits and by the reawakened interest of the inhabitants in industries other than those nurtured by agriculture. Especial attention was claimed by borax, borate of soda, and borate of lime deposits, in which certain districts near the Chilean frontier abound. Scenes of activity are noticeable at the borax mines in La Rioja Province. Among the discoveries of the year may be mentioned the finding of a rich deposit of mica in the Department of Molinos, of metallic ore rich in manganese, and of a fine marble, with red spots, in the Province of San Luis. Several companies were formed in Europe and the Argentine Republic to work the borax and borate deposits.

Two practical schools for instruction in agriculture and cattle-raising on a scientific basis were founded at Victoria and La Llave Colony, Department of Nogoyá, Province of Entre Rios. They are under the charge of Benedictine Fathers.

The first consignment of olive trees, 500 in number, was received from Spain. These are intended for experimental cultivation, and were set out at the Agricultural School at Villa Urquiza, Province of Entre Rios.

The Legislature of the Province of La Rioja passed a bill intended to promote the culture of grapes, oranges, walnuts, and olives. Under its provisions vineyards are exempt from taxation for a period of five years, orange plantations for seven years, and walnut and olive groves for eight years.

The year's wine production in the Province of Mendoza was estimated at 437,200 *bordalesas* (casks containing from 120 to 250 liters).

The estimated value of the wool exported from the Argentine Republic for the year was stated in November last, to be about \$70,000,000 gold.

The Legislature of the Province of Santa Fé passed a law declaring exempt of all taxes for a period of four years the cotton and woolen

mills, starch, paper, cordage, and straw-hat factories that may be established therein.

During the year there were under construction six steamers of about 6,000 tons capacity each to run between New York, Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Montevideo.

A telegraphic convention was signed by the Argentine Republic and the United States of Brazil for the establishment of direct communication by wire between Buenos Ayres and Porto Alegre.

A commercial reciprocity treaty between the United States and the Argentine Republic was signed, and it is now before the United States Senate for ratification. A treaty of arbitration was signed on November 22 by the Plenipotentiaries of the Argentine Republic and Paraguay. According to its terms it is to remain in force for ten years, and unless notice of withdrawal be given six months prior to the expiration of this term it will be considered as renewed for another period of ten years. In the Argentine Republic the new treaty has met with almost universal approbation.

The geological expedition under Prof. J. B. HATCHER, sent out by Princeton University, returned to the United States in June with a collection of fossils, vertebrates, and invertebrates gathered in Patagonia. This expedition discovered the first Messozoic mammals ever found, and more than thirty cases of Messozoic vertebrates were shipped to the United States. A valuable collection of bird and fish fossils was also secured, and it has been prepared for Princeton's Museum.

In the way of public works the year has been prolific in concessions for their execution. Several grants for railroad construction and for the making of a port in the Bay of Sanborombón have been granted. Concessions were also granted for several underground electric-railway lines, and the shipments of electrical machinery from the United States have been very heavy. The municipal authorities of the city of Buenos Ayres about the middle of the year repealed the ordinance requiring the free lighting of streets traversed by trolley lines, which settled the fate of horse cars in Buenos Ayres. At the end of the year there were two electric lines in operation in the city, and of the ten horse-car lines a majority were looking to changing the motor power to electricity in the near future. The municipal authorities also passed a resolution calling for a network of electric tramways to connect the suburbs of Villa Donato, Catalinas, Crespo, and others with the capital.

The Government determined to deepen the approach to the harbor of Santa Fé and execute necessary harbor improvements. The preliminary steps were taken, and it is expected that early in 1900 bids will be invited for doing the work.

By order of the Minister of Public Works a general map of all the railroad lines owned by the Government was undertaken and is now in process of completion.

Among other matters of interest may be mentioned the meeting in the neutral waters of the Straits of Magellan of the Presidents of the Argentine Republic and the Republic of Chile, each having gone thither in a national vessel after Minister BUCHANAN had rendered his award in the Puna de Atacama boundary dispute. President ROCA in August last also made a visit to the President of the United States of Brazil for the purpose of discussing South American international policies.

On February 15, the British Government appointed a tribunal to arbitrate the minor Argentine Republic-Chilean boundary controversy which is still pending, no decision having been rendered during the year.

On October 23, Minister BUCHANAN having resigned his position as diplomatic envoy to the Argentine Republic, the President of the United States appointed the Hon. WILLIAM P. LORD, of Oregon, as his successor. The Senate of the United States confirmed the nomination on December 14.

Near the close of the year—the 23d day of November—the Bureau lost one of its staunchest friends and adherents in the person of Señor Dr. Don MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU, Minister from the Argentine Republic, who had served as a member of the Executive Committee of the International Union of American Republics from the organization of the same in June, 1896, and whose efforts in behalf of the Bureau had been untiring. Upon the date first named Mr. MÉROU bade his colleagues of the committee farewell, announcing his recall to his native country to assume the portfolio of Minister of Agriculture. Upon that occasion the Secretary of State of the United States was pleased to remark that “in the exalted station which he will hereafter occupy he will be able to be of very great assistance to us all in the purpose to which we are devoted, of increasing the commercial relations between all the countries of this continent and in drawing closer the bonds of sympathy and friendship which now so happily exist among us.”

On October 18, there was formed at the Geographical Institute of Buenos Ayres a new society bearing the name of the American Peace Association, to follow out the worthy ideas which its name indicates. The meeting was attended by a large number of the leading citizens of the Argentine Republic and also representatives from six of the South American Republics. The President of the new association is Señor Don ROQUE SAENZ PEÑA, who represented the Argentine Republic as a delegate in the International American Conference of 1889-90 in Washington.

*Bolivia.*—Like some of her sister Republics, Bolivia's record for the year just ended was marked by the settlement of the long-standing boundary dispute between her and the United States of Brazil, the latter Government magnanimously conceding the demands of the former. Shortly after the settlement mentioned, the Government of

Bolivia established a custom-house in the disputed territory at Puerto Alonzo, on the Acre River. Prior to this peaceful ending of the controversy, the only interior port from which the products of Bolivia could be shipped was Villa Bella, on the Madeira River, which stream offers many obstructions to navigation. In November the Government declared free of duty all merchandise shipped from Brazilian ports to Acre until September, 1900. The land involved in the controversy between these two neighboring States is of considerable extent and contains many thousands of rubber trees.

Although the early part of the year had seen the country in the throes of civil war, and men's minds were turned from peaceful pursuits to fratricidal antagonisms, the results of the strife brought into the Presidential chair an eminent son of Bolivia, who had headed the victorious insurgent forces. General DON JOSÉ MANUEL PANDO was inaugurated as Constitutional President of the Republic of Bolivia on October 26 amid the enthusiastic acclamations of Congress and the people, and surrounded himself with a Cabinet composed of prominent and distinguished men. Immediately upon his assumption of the high office to which he had been called through the prowess of his arms and the votes of his countrymen, he set about reviving the onward march of trade and industry, unhappily interrupted by the internecine troubles, and has succeeded in renewing the confidence of business men at home and abroad.

The expenses created by the revolution and the consequent stagnation of trade and industry will be met by the proceeds of the law which established a surtax of 25 per cent on the total amount of imported duties collected in all the custom-houses of the Republic, which tax was later on in the year raised to 40 per cent, and other imposts.

Notwithstanding the civil war in the early part of the year, there was noticeable renewed activity in the mining and rubber industry after its close. The great mineral region worked by the Huanchaca Mining Company, which for two or three years past has suffered seriously through water in the lower levels of the mines, has been largely relieved of this interference with the work, and the great reduction works at Playa Blanca were taken in hand by a wealthy New York firm, and will be operated by it.

What was probably the first cargo of silver ore from the west coast of South America to an Atlantic port of the United States reached Philadelphia on July 18 last. It came from mines high up in the Bolivian Andes and had to be transported on mule back to Antofagasta, the nearest seaport. It was not until 1898 that the first mining machinery was shipped from the United States to Bolivia, and during the past year a powerful United States smelting concern became interested in the great copper resources of the country and has since continued to exploit the same.

A London syndicate, formed for the exploitation of the rubber forests  
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in the interior of Bolivia and the marketing of the product in London, during the past year absorbed the extensive possessions and flourishing business of the late Dr. ANTONIO VACA DIEZ in the Beni District of the Republic. Considerable United States capital has been attracted also to this industry in Bolivia, and it is expected that the story which the present year will tell will far outshine that of its predecessor.

In July, the Bolivian Government appointed an engineer commission for the purpose of working out a plan for a railway, the destination of which is to be the Acre River. A French syndicate is bearing the expenses of the undertaking.

Surveys for a new railroad around the falls of the Madeira River, which have proved such an obstruction to navigation, were begun during the year and still continue, the expenses incident to the undertaking being borne by a Belgian syndicate.

Late in December, the Government determined to lay before the world evidences of the great natural resources of the country by sending an exhibit to the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in the year 1901.

*Brazil.*—The year 1899 was the three hundred and ninety-ninth since the discovery of what, from the year 1889, has been known as the United States of Brazil. During the present year this great nation will celebrate the quadricentennial of its discovery. The past year has been one marked by great commercial and industrial activity in many portions of the country, notably in the States of Pará and Amazonas. The city of Pará, some 70 miles distant from the mouth of the mighty Amazon River, and the key to an enormous stretch of wealthy country, is rapidly justifying the designation given it of the "Chicago of South America." The State, under the wise administration of Dr. JOSÉ PAES DO CARVALHO, who, imbued with a desire to bring into prominent notice the vast productiveness, the immense industrial possibilities, and the great strides made in recent years on the road of progress by the political entity whose destinies he is directing, published during the year an excellent descriptive work under the title of "Album do Pará em 1899," which is referred to elsewhere in this issue of the MONTHLY BULLETIN. This State has several prototypes among her twenty-one sisters of the Republic. Commerce with the United States, more especially in the line of electrical appliances, has increased steadily and progressively during the year, the outlook for the present twelve-month being most encouraging.

Among the events of the year worthy of note may be mentioned the following:

Early in March the Brazilian Government accepted the proposition of Great Britain to submit the boundary dispute with British Guiana to arbitration.

The United States gunboat *Wilmington*, in the first part of the year, visited a large number of ports in the interior of Brazil, going 1,000 miles up the Amazon and following some of its tributaries hundreds



of miles farther. Her officers and men were everywhere received with great hospitality. This was the first occasion that a naval vessel of a foreign power had ever appeared so far in the interior of Brazil.

The United States Minister, Hon. CHARLES PAGE BRYAN, also visited the States of Minas Geraes, São Paulo, Bahia, and others, and became impressed with the advancement the country had made under a republican form of government.

The Brazilian Congress convened on May 3, and President CAMPOS-SALLES in his message referred to the absolute tranquillity of the country and the beneficent results of republican institutions.

On May 30, the Commercial Association of Rio de Janeiro inaugurated in its building in that city a permanent exposition of the agricultural and natural products of Brazil, which met with most gratifying success.

The State Government of Pará appropriated \$50,000, to which the authorities at Rio de Janeiro added \$200,000 as a subsidy for the purpose of establishing a new line of steamships from New York to Pará. The matter of promoting better and swifter direct communication between Brazil and the United States was the moving cause of a large meeting held in Philadelphia on November 15 for the purpose of establishing a line of steamships from that port to Rio de Janeiro. Captain CORDEIRA DE GRAÇA, who was the Brazilian representative at the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, was present, and spoke emphatically in favor of the plan. He stated that despite the great coffee trade between the two countries, there was not a single United States steamship line placing them in communication.

A syndicate was formed in New York City to utilize the water power located 20 miles from São Paulo so as to generate electricity and conduct it to the city for lighting, railway, and power service. In this city, as in Pará, Rio de Janeiro, and Manaus, many street-railway franchises were granted and work on their construction was begun and still continues. Several very large contracts were made in the United States for the equipments of these roads. In the city of Pará a United States firm put up an ice-making plant of 10 tons daily capacity.

The Amazon Telegraph Company abandoned the plan of laying a cable in the Amazon River from Pará to Manaus, but commenced erecting a land line. The Government granted the company a concession for twelve years carrying a subsidy of \$85,625 a year.

On July 3, a new line of steamers to ply on the river São Francisco was inaugurated, thus opening up a large portion of the interior of the country to the commerce of the world.

By decree of June 6, the Government authorized the Brazilian Sub-Marine Telegraph and the Western and Brazilian Telegraph companies to consolidate under the name and style of "The Western Telegraph Company, Limited," and operate as one company.

Several new railroad concessions were granted during the year, and

railroad construction progressed finely, especially on the road from Blumenau to Port Union and on that from Rio Grande do Sul to the Uruguay River.

The scheme of putting the Upper and Lower Parana into a navigable condition, now interrupted by the Falls of La Guayra, which has lain dormant for four years, was again revived with a hope of being carried into execution in the near future.

In September, the Board of Directors of the French Merchant Marine at Paris adopted resolutions in favor of the establishment of a monthly postal and commercial service between France and the cities of Pará and Manãos.

On August 10, the Anglo-Brazilian Gold Syndicate was admitted to registry in London; its objects being "to seek for and secure openings for the employment of capital in Brazil and elsewhere, to acquire the lessees' interests in the lease of the estate of Santa Quiteira, Santa Barbara, Brazil, and to carry on the business of miners, smelters, etc." The capital stock of the syndicate is £20,000 in £1 shares.

Very rich deposits of monazite were discovered in the State of Bahia.

Two new banks were established in Rio de Janeiro—an Italian bank with a capital of 5,000,000 *lire* (\$965,000), with agencies in the capitals of the several States, and the Belgium Bank, with a capital of 25,000,000 *francs*.

Bids were opened on December 6 for the improvement works in the port of Manãos, State of Amazonas.

The rubber production greatly increased during the year, the latest figures at hand being those of September 30, which show the yield up to that date to have been 18,500,000 pounds.

The figures of the census of Brazil, taken on December 31, 1890, were first published during the year.

The increase of local production throughout the Republic has made deep inroads during the past ten years, and notably during the last year into the foreign introduction of articles of food and prime necessity.

In closing the record for the year, which has only been very lightly touched upon, the MONTHLY BULLETIN feels constrained to express the regret of the Bureau of the American Republics at the departure from Washington of one of its staunchest friends in the person of Senhor MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA LIMA, First Secretary of the Brazilian Legation at Washington, who during the holiday season left for London, there to assume a similar position with the Brazilian Legation near the Court of St. James.

*Chile.*—Like her great trans-Andean neighbor, Chile had a prosperous year in 1891, which she well inaugurated by joining her sister States in the International Union of American Republics and becoming one of the contributors to the Bureau of the American Republics on February 4. Known as one of the least densely populated and most

industrious of the South American commonwealths, Chile has made considerable strides along almost every line of endeavor during the year just closed. The condition of her finances has been steadily improving since the beginning of 1889, and being essentially a mineral-producing country, having large deposits of copper, borates, and sulphur, the rise in the value of copper has called the attention of speculators toward her, and many syndicates have been formed to develop the several deposits, which has led to the projecting of considerable railroad construction to replace animal transportation in many localities. Her customs receipts exceeded by not far from 2,000,000 pesos those of the previous year.

The Congress, which closed its sessions in January, made many appropriations for public works in the way of railway, telegraph, and telephone lines, roads, bridges, waterworks, steamship lines, etc. It also enacted a law providing for the introduction, free of duty for ten years, of raw cotton and cotton-weaving machinery from abroad, and permitting the importation, free of duty, of carded, washed, or uncleaned wool from the Argentine Republic. It also ratified the Parcels-Post Convention with the United States, which has since been in effect and by the terms of which the postage on packages mailed in Chile is 50 *centavos* per pound, or a fractional part thereof, and 20 cents per pound on packages mailed in the United States.

The results of this beneficent legislation have been abundantly shown in the putting on of new lines and the extending of old lines of steamship communication to the ports of Brazil, Central America, Mexico, and the United States, electrical installations at Punta Arenas, the new dry dock at Talcahuano, and other internal improvements of moment, from time to time noticed in the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Among the noteworthy events of the year may be mentioned the award on the boundary dispute, which had existed for so long a time between that country and Chile, made on March 24 by the United States Minister to the Argentine Republic, which award seems to have been satisfactory to the two litigants, and, at any rate, has been productive of a resumption of the cordial relations existing between the two Governments prior to the arising of the boundary controversy, that on several occasions had brought the two countries almost to the verge of war and had led to the investment in arms and armament of large sums that could have been far more profitably appropriated to the development of marvelous natural resources and the promotion of the arts of peace.

On August 8, a tidal wave burst into the Bay of Valparaiso causing damage to the amount of over \$1,000,000, and serious floods visited neighboring portions of the Republic. With characteristic pluck the citizens met the situation, and as the year closes the evidences of the unfortunate occurrence are almost entirely obliterated, save in the instance of docks, etc., the reconstruction of which has, however, been begun.

The Chilean Congress, which convened on July 1, passed a bill to revive the United States and Chilean Claims Commission, which sat in Washington in 1892-93, to which will be submitted the claims of citizens of one country against the Government of the other whenever the Senate of the United States shall ratify the convention creating it.

Large deposits of petroleum were reported to have been discovered near Punta Arenas, in the Magellan Territory.

The Government sent out a commission of engineers to examine and report on new coal fields discovered in the Provinces of Cautin and Malaco, with a view, should the report prove favorable, to opening up the localities to the public.

Another event of the year was the signing of a Treaty of Navigation and Commerce concluded with Denmark.

A convention was concluded between the Republic of Chile and that of Ecuador pursuant to which the lawyers, physicians, surgeons, and pharmacists properly registered in either of the two countries are admitted to the free exercise of their profession in the territory of the other country without any requirement other than proof of identity and registration.

*Colombia.*—Despite the fact that the latter part of the year just passed was marred in Colombia by the outbreak of a revolution, the record of the year may be said to have been one of progress.

The following is a short résumé of events which have transpired during the course of 1899:

On April 3, the Republic of Colombia, which had been constrained to withdraw from the International Union of American Republics some two years after its formation, reentered it, and Señor Don CLÍMACO CALDERÓN, who on March 1 was received as the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Colombia at Washington by the President of the United States, immediately became a member of the Executive Committee of the said Union, and has shown great interest in the Bureau.

A United States company early in the year introduced the first traction engine and train of cars into Colombia, which has been in use between Bogotá and the Magdalena River.

Almost at the beginning of the year the Government made a contract with a foreign company, granting it the right to lay and work a submarine telegraph cable between Rio Hacha, Department of Magdalena, and Colón, Department of Panamá, connecting with the ports of Santa Marta, Colombia, and Cartagena, on the Atlantic side. According to the terms of the contract of concession, the line is to be open to public service within eighteen months from the date of the contract.

The Government also entered into contract for the construction by a foreign company of a railroad to connect the District of Bocas del Torro and Chiriquí, Department of Panamá. The work is to be completed within ten years, the company receiving a subsidy of 5,000 pesos per

kilometer. Work on the Canea Railroad progressed actively during the year.

The first serious steps were taken to promote the silkworm industry in Colombia, and samples of *yerba mate*, an interest in which was aroused through articles in the MONTHLY BULLETIN, were asked of Brazil, with a view to introducing the culture of the plant in Colombia.

The Government granted the exclusive right to work deposits of sea salt in the Department of Panamá to a Colombian citizen, he paying a tax of 37.9 cents for each 12½ kilometers of salt extracted.

On July 20, an exposition was opened at Bogotá comprising six sections: Literature, art, industry, education, agriculture, and floriculture. An appropriation of \$10,000 was made by the Government for expenses. The exposition, so far as agricultural products and cattle were concerned, was a great success. Very good samples of cotton fabrics manufactured at Cartagena and Samacá were also exhibited, as well as domestic furniture, woolens, etc.

The question of furnishing potable water for the city of Bogotá was again revived, an English engineer being engaged to look into the matter, and it was found that the only way to conveniently provide the city with a water supply would be the construction of another reservoir, utilizing for the purpose what is known as the "Río San Cristóbal."

On November 15, the commission of engineers which is to survey the boundary line, on the part of Colombia, between Colombia and Venezuela, pursuant to the award in the boundary dispute between these two Republics, which was rendered by the Queen Regent of Spain on March 21, 1891, left Bogotá, and by the end of the year were engaged in carrying out their instructions.

On September 30, the Government granted the concession for the manufacture of matches in the Republic for a period of twenty-five years to Señor J. M. SIERRA, who was the highest bidder. The concessionary must erect three factories in different Provinces of the Republic, the first of which must be in operation within a year from the signing of the concession.

The Government decided to erect a light-house on Gomez Island, near the mouth of the Magdalena River, to point out dangers to navigation, but the work was not commenced by the end of the year.

Several large steel bridges were imported from the United States for the Magdalena and Bogotá Railroad.

The Colombia Concessions Company, Limited, was incorporated in London on August 1, with a capital of £3,500 in £1 shares, to acquire and work mines in the Republic of Colombia and elsewhere. Gold prospecting by United States citizens was conducted to a considerable extent along the Atrato River.

A stock company, with a capital of \$4,300,000, was formed for the establishment of a large cotton factory at Medellin.

Bids were received at Panamá, on December 30, for the construction of an aqueduct for the water service of that city.

An extraordinary craze for emerald buying broke out in Bogotá in the month of July, and from the 10th to the 21st of that month it is estimated that 4,000,000 *pesos* went into the pockets of the gem owners and peddlers. The craze was due to a Bogotá dealer, who, on his return from Paris, began to buy emeralds at prices higher than the ruling market value. Colombia's famous Muzo mine, 75 miles from Bogotá, has long been producing emeralds of great value.

On August 18, by Executive decree, the Colombian Government announced that in order to change paper currency into silver money it would seek a foreign loan of £3,000,000. As security for this loan the Government offered to pledge the rental of the Muzo and Coscuez emerald mines, the proceeds of the match monopoly, the annual sums due by the Panamá Railroad Company to the Republic, and the interest of the latter in the Panamá Canal. The latest advices, however, are to the effect that the Government subsequently gave up the idea of securing said loan.

During the latter part of the year 3,000 laborers were again at work on the Panamá Canal. The number was soon to be increased to 5,000, and during the period of greatest activity to 16,000. The work was examined by a commission of engineers which reported that the new plans involved the excavating of 24,700,000 cubic meters of earth, of which 12,200,000 are at Culebra mountain. It will take ten years to complete the work.

After six years of being unrepresented in Chile by a Legation, Colombia, in October last, appointed Señor CLÍMACO GÓMEZ VALDES as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Santiago de Chile, where he was received with every mark of esteem and consideration.

This record of events in Colombia for the year 1899 is saddened by the deplorable death by drowning in the Magdalena River of General DON JULIO RENGIFO M., for many years Secretary of Legation and Chargé d'Affaires of Colombia at Washington. The General was drowned while a passenger on a river steamer in the effort to save the lives of those who were seeking the shore to escape the flames. When last seen he was standing by the captain of the boat surrounded by flames. A short time previous, in August, he had been appointed Minister of Finance, which position he held but a few days, as he received the appointment of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Colombia at Quito, Ecuador, whence he was journeying to settle some delicate diplomatic question, when he met his death.

*Costa Rica.*—The record of Costa Rica during the past year shows, as was said by the Central and South American Commissioners sent by the United States in 1884 to the several countries south of the Rio Grande, that her "face is to the future," and her newly added pages of history are still unsullied by the presentation of any claims on behalf of citizens of other nations for damages or injuries caused by arbitrary

acts on the part of her civil and military authorities. Her record in this regard since her independence is unbroken. The year just past shows a very large increase in investments of United States capital in Costa Rica's mining and agricultural resources, which have claimed the attention of citizens of the former country since 1884, and more especially since 1890, when the United States took the precedence, which it still maintains, over Great Britain, which up to that time had led the United States in a commercial sense as regards Costa Rica. The enlargement of the business done by the United States with her rich Central American sister in the way of manufactures during the past year augurs well for the future. This assertion is portentous when it is considered that the United States export goods to the value of \$7.50 per capita of the population of Costa Rica.

Among the events of the year calling for special mention were the following:

On January 5, Señor Don JOAQUÍN B. CALVO was received by the President of the United States as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Costa Rica. Señor CALVO has resided in the United States in a diplomatic capacity for some ten years and has earned the respect and esteem of all circles, official, business, and social. His indefatigable efforts in behalf of a closer, friendly, and commercial union between his native country and her elder sister of the north have been evidenced by his untiring devotion to the Bureau of the American Republics, which he has most faithfully served as a member of its Executive Committee.

Work on the first electric tramway in Central America was commenced in the city of San José early in the past year. This is a United States undertaking, and gives promise of being the precursor of many more enterprises of a like nature.

The Constitutional Congress at Costa Rica, on June 24, authorized the Executive Power to negotiate a loan to an amount not to exceed £200,000, pledging as security 60,000 ordinary shares of the Costa Rican Railroad, owned by the nation. The total proceeds of the loan were to be converted into national gold coin of the fineness and weight established by law No. 4, of October, 1896.

The year saw a boom in the cattle business, which is one of the most profitable enterprises in the country. It has been stated by those familiar with the industry that no country in Central America can compete with the natural advantages of Costa Rica in the way of climate, soil, and abundance of pure water. The profits in the business were greatly increased by the large shipments of beef cattle to Cuba, which made deep inroads into the domestic supply.

Another event of the year was the extension of the legal existence of the Anglo-Costa Rican Bank, of San José, to June 30, 1930.

On July 24, the Constitutional Congress enacted a law providing that hereafter merchandise imported through Puerto Limón, destined

for the Provinces of Alajuela, Cartago, and Heredia, may be dispatched either at Limón or at the central custom-house in San José, which enactment was of distinct advantage to trade, before hampered by the extra expense incurred through the transporting of all goods, wheresoever destined, to the capital.

A new mercantile agency, which will doubtless have a great beneficial effect on the commercial relations, was one of the year's best productions in Costa Rica. The agency is formed of Señor Don JUAN RAFAEL MATA, one of the most prominent citizens of the Republic and the delegate of his country to the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia, and of Señor Don MANUEL ARAGÓN, Costa Rica's delegate to the International American Conference at Washington in 1889-90. The agency is located at San José.

On October 15, the Presidential decree establishing a tax on all railway tickets went into effect. The tax is 5 cents on all passenger tickets valued at \$2 or less, and 10 cents on all exceeding \$2 in value.

On October 19, the President of the United States issued a proclamation bringing Costa Rica into copyright relations with the former country, under which the citizens of either nation enjoy the benefits of copyright in the other.

In December, sight exchange on New York went down from 180 to 130 per cent, with a still further downward tendency. This favorable movement was due to the amount of the gold reserve on hand and other measures preparatory to the adoption of the gold standard in Costa Rica. The term established for the conversion will expire on December 31, 1900.

On November 22, the Executive Board of the National Faculty of Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy determined not to accept as valid the diploma of any physician, pharmacist, or dentist which does not bear the following signatures: Those of the civil authorities of the place where the diploma was issued, authenticating those of the professors of the university or college where issued; the signature of the Minister of Foreign Relations or of the competent authority of the country where the diploma was issued, authenticating the signatures of the local authority; the signature of the Representative of Costa Rica, authenticating that of the Minister of Foreign Relations, and that of the Minister of Foreign Relations of Costa Rica, authenticating the latter.

*Ecuador.*—The Republic of Ecuador, during the past year, has made considerable progress along commercial and industrial lines. The commerce of the country, which had been for five years past inconvenienced by the depreciation of silver and the arbitrary fluctuations of exchange, felt, in a slight degree, the revivifying influences of the law passed by the Congress in November, 1898, which provided for placing the country on a gold basis within two years; but, unfortunately, when things were assuming a more pleasing aspect the city of Guayaquil, on Novem-



ber 27, was visited by a disastrous fire, which destroyed property to the value of more than 1,500,000 *suces*.

On January 1, 1899, the Government declared the port of Bolivar a port of entry, and on that date it was opened to foreign commerce. This port, otherwise known as Boca de Jambeli, is the seaport of the city of Machala, the capital of the Province del Oro, and is situated on the eastern slope of the entrance to the Guayaquil River.

The Government, desirous of improving the educational facilities in the country, during the year instructed the Consul-General of Ecuador at Paris to secure in Europe teachers of both sexes for the public schools.

Desiring to promote the agricultural industry, several capitalists and landowners of Ecuador formed an association with a capital of 1,000,000 *suces* to carry on an agricultural bank.

Cacao, which is the production par excellence of the Republic of Ecuador, had considerable more land devoted to its culture during the year, and the crops were larger than the year 1898. It was estimated that the total crop for the past twelvemonth was 30,000 tons.

The increased price for crude rubber attracted renewed attention to the product and its cultivation in Ecuador, and forest trees far in the interior were tapped for their elastic yield, the enhanced price overbalancing the increased cost of transportation.

In January, 1899, a committee of the Geographical Society of France decided to recommend to the consideration of the French Government that the measurement of the arc of the meridian on the equator near Quito should be revised, so as to obtain the greatest possible accuracy by the use of modern methods. The Government took the matter up and delegated the execution of the work to experienced officers in the geodetic section of the "Service Géographique."

Two treaties were ratified during the year—one of amity, concluded on February 22, 1895, between Ecuador and the United States of Venezuela, which was proclaimed by the President of the former country on October 12, 1899, and the other a treaty with the Republic of France providing for reciprocal copyright benefits in the two countries, which was concluded at Quito on May 9, 1898, and proclaimed by the President of Ecuador on September 26, 1899.

On December 7, the Guayaquil and Quito Railroad Company executed a mortgage to the United States Mortgage and Trust Company, of New York, in the sum of \$12,282,000 in exchange for an issue of bonds for a like amount. This money is to enable the company to extend the road from its present terminus, 65 miles from Guayaquil, a distance of 230 miles farther, to Quito. The necessity for this railroad may be seen from the fact that all transportation between the two places is conducted with animals, 70,000 mules and asses being engaged in it.

*Guatemala.*—For several years past the relations existing between

Guatemala and the United States have been growing closer and commercially, at least, during the year just closed the bonds uniting them have been drawn tighter. In 1898 the United States figured in the imports of Guatemala with 39 per cent of the total and during the past year this figure was increased.

The absence of any political disturbances of moment permitted the industrial tendencies of the inhabitants to follow their natural bent, and, although the depression in the coffee market has been keenly felt in Guatemala, this fact has led the Government and people to foster and promote the cultivation of other products of the soil, which can not but result to the permanent benefit of this most thickly populated of the Central American States.

During the year work on the Puerto Barrios and Northern Railway, which was commenced some sixteen years ago by Señor Don RUFINO BARRIOS, then President of the Republic, and which recently passed into the hands of a United States company, progressed actively, and it will not be long before its completion will be announced and the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea will be united by steel ligatures.

The question of constructing a railroad line between San Felipe and Quezaltenango aroused much interest during the year, but nothing definite was decided.

On July 1, the Government, recognizing that the principal source of wealth of the nation is agriculture, and that one of the articles to the cultivation of which the eastern towns have devoted themselves is tobacco, and that restrictive legislation had prevented the development of this industry, promulgated a law that thereafter the sowing, cultivation, and elaboration should be free from all tax, national or municipal. The export of leaf or manufactured tobacco was made free, while imported tobacco in the leaf should pay 1 *peso* per pound, gross weight, and manufactured 2 *pesos* per pound, including weight of package. The Government devoted considerable attention to agriculture by enacting several laws removing restrictions upon it and admitting a large number of the tools and implements of the industry free of duty.

Much attention was also devoted to the cultivation of the rubber plant in the Republic and laws were passed for its encouragement, one being to the effect that a premium, consisting of a gratuitous concession of 112 acres, would be granted to owners of every 20,000 rubber trees from 3 to 4 years old planted subsequent to the promulgation of the law. Ramie culture claimed the attention of the Director-General of Agriculture of Guatemala, who, through the MONTHLY BULLETIN for September, expressed his desire to have persons interested in the cultivation of this fibrous plant to place themselves in communication with him.

The National Congress which closed its sessions on June 2, 1899, passed the appropriation bill for the ensuing year, carrying amounts aggregating \$11,597,650. The Congress also ratified the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation concluded with Nicaragua.

On July 28, the ratifications of the treaty between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Republic of Guatemala relative to trademarks, signed at Guatemala City on July 20, 1898, were exchanged. The text of this treaty in English was published in full in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for October.

Owing to the supply of flour in the Republic having been exhausted the city of Guatemala last fall purchased \$20,000 worth of the article in Valparaiso.

On October 20, a decree was issued by the President imposing an export duty on bananas, cleaned coffee, rubber, hides, and deer and sheep skins, which was mentioned in the December number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

*Haiti.*—The Republic of Haïti during the year 1899 suffered from the effects of the financial situation, which, as the President stated in his message to Congress, “almost paralyzed the different branches of the public service.” The small Republic, however, maintained during the last twelve months the most cordial relations with foreign powers, especially with France, the President of which conferred upon the Chief Magistrate of the Republic and its Minister Plenipotentiary at Paris the high dignity of commander and officer, respectively, of the National Order of the Legion of Honor. Having been at peace with all the world, the year 1899 was more productive of satisfactory results than several of its predecessors as regards the agricultural, industrial, and business interests of the country. Among the noteworthy events of the year may be mentioned the following:

The important question of the boundaries with the Dominican Republic, which has been the source of much diplomatic correspondence and discussion for many years past, was submitted to arbitration. This satisfactory result was brought about by an interview between the Presidents of Haïti and the Dominican Republic, which took place at Môle St. Nicholas on May 28 and happily ended in a convention providing for the determination of the boundaries, which met with the approval of the two countries interested.

During the first quarter of the year loans to the amount of \$490,000, Haitian gold currency, were contracted, which, added to the \$1,114,769 secured from October 17 to December 16, 1898, make a total of \$1,604,769. It was determined during the year 1899 to apply three-fourths of the import duties to the loan of December 16, 1898, and the other loan, the total of which was converted into United States gold, was to be liquidated within the present year or earlier than the middle of next year.

The Government, in its effort to reach a solution of the financial question, sent the Chief of the Treasury to Paris to submit propositions looking to a loan to the French Government.

Efforts were made to promote the more extensive cultivation of cocoa, since the fall in the price of coffee had resulted somewhat disastrously

to the trade of the country. The more general use of aniline in the dyeing industry had a very appreciable effect upon the exports of log-wood, which fell off more than one-fourth within the last five years.

During the year a company with a capital of \$5,000,000 was formed in New York City for the development of an iron and plaster of paris mine in the Republic, and the engineers of the company have been since at work on the spot.

A most seriously felt want—paucity of means of direct communication between the United States and Haïti—seems to have been considerably ameliorated by the establishment of a weekly steamship service between New York and Haitian ports by the Cameron Steamship Company in November. The vessels of the new line are rated at 14 knots per hour.

*Honduras.*—The year just closed has been a quiet and peaceful one in the resourceful Republic of Honduras, which, since the establishment of peace and order under President BONILLA'S wise and liberal administration, has been enjoying a satisfactory, economical development, and its inhabitants have been following the path of advancement with steady strides. Unfortunately the year did not see the obtaining of that great desideratum which would so largely facilitate business, particularly agricultural enterprise, and enable the country to settle its foreign debt as was said by President BONILLA in 1898—a commercial bank.

On February 1, amid the acclamations of a multitude composed of all political parties, Gen. TERRENCIO SIERRA and Gen. JOSÉ MARÍA REINA were inaugurated President and Vice-President, respectively, at Tegucigalpa. The President immediately upon his inauguration announced the members of his Cabinet, which represents the best elements of the Republic. President SIERRA has the confidence of his people and he has continued to conduct public affairs as a worthy successor to Dr. BONILLA, ably seconded by his Cabinet members, all of whom have evinced a most friendly attitude toward closer friendly and commercial relations with the United States.

One of the events of the year is the discovery, entirely accidental, by a poor man of a deposit of tin within easy access of a wagon road and with fuel and water at hand. Lack of means to utilize the discovery had prevented the working of the deposit.

The Island of Utila, in the Caribbean Sea, a part of the territory of the Republic of Honduras, has one peculiarity, which is that English and not Spanish is taught in the schools. Early in the year 1899 the United States Consul informed his Government that he had persuaded the school board of the island to adopt American schoolbooks in place of the English text-books formerly used.

On July 1, an important contract between the agent for 165 planters in Honduras and the Bluefields Steamship Company was closed. Under the contract the company receives a supply of 130,000 bunches of the best Honduras bananas. The term of the contract is four years.

The demand for cattle for shipment to Cuba during the past year was very great; so great, in fact, that it taxes beyond the visible supply the markets of Honduras, and dealers were compelled to send to Salvador to make purchases to fill their orders. The outlook for this industry, as for others connected with agriculture, is very flattering for the year 1900.

The exports of bananas from Omoa, in the northern part of Honduras, up to the beginning of November was more than 200,000 bunches, and the outlook for the year 1900 is very encouraging, as new contracts have been made with steamship lines which give promise of more profits to the banana shippers.

*Mexico.*—The progress of the United Mexican States in the last ten years may well merit the adjective stupendous, to the justifiable use of which the advancements credited to the year 1899 have contributed in a very large measure. The strides of this great Spanish-American nation along the path which leads to financial, commercial, and industrial greatness, during the year just closed, have been longer perhaps than in any year since she threw off the Spanish yoke. To the development of heretofore latent natural resources has been added the establishment of several lines of manufacture to meet the domestic demand and rely less upon foreign lands as purveyors for local consumption. The activity in railroad building, both in the way of new lines and extensions of those already in operation, has been very marked. The introduction of modern equipments and appliances on railroads and in municipal improvements has been the subject of universal remark. The Republic of Mexico enters upon the closing year of the Nineteenth Century with a financial credit, not only actually, but commercially above par. To enumerate in detail the many evidences of the forward movement in the neighboring Republic would carry this year's review far beyond the limits and scope which the MONTHLY BULLETIN can give it. A few of the important happenings of the year are as follows:

On March 30, 1899, the first Ambassador Plenipotentiary ever sent to a foreign land by Mexico was accredited to the Government of the United States in the person of Señor Don MANUEL ASPIROZ, who has been a worthy successor to the late lamented Señor Don MATÍAS ROMERO, who did so much to closely bind the relations of friendship which have so long and so happily existed between the two nations divided only by the shallow waters of the Rio Grande.

Early in the year the Mexican Consul at Corpus Christi, Texas, was given a land grant of 33,000,000 acres, which he has been colonizing with Spanish ex-soldiers from Puerto Rico and Cuba.

The State of Yucatán witnessed a great industrial revival during the past year. There was great activity in railroad building, and the removal of the import duty on the yarn of henequén, ixtle, etc., by the United States caused largely increased exports of that great staple to that country.

The mining industry was invigorated by the investment of many millions of dollars in the reworking of old mines and the opening of new, the statement being current that over \$50,000,000 of United States capital were invested in such operations. Several coal mining companies have been formed in the United States to operate coal mines and oil and gas wells in Mexico, prominent among which was one incorporated on June 29, in New Jersey, with a capital of \$6,000,000. Large deposits of petroleum were discovered early in the year at Cuetzla, near Puebla, which are being worked by a Mexican company. Another Mexican company was formed, with a capital of \$10,000,000, to operate the iron mines on the Milmo estate, near the Mexican National Railroad, about 100 miles north of Monterey. An English company, with a capital of £600,000, was formed for the working of coal deposits in the district of Acatlán, State of Puebla. Prior to 1899 all the asphalt used in Mexico was imported, but in May a Texas company shipped from Tampico to the United States 60 barrels of asphalt for test purposes. The applications for mineral locations in the State of Sonora were largely in excess of those for many years past. Important copper mines were discovered near Ejuatla and Niahuatlac, State of Oaxaca. Rich gold discoveries were made in the State of Guerrero. Several of the more important mines of the district of Parral, State of Chihuahua, were provided with electric light and power. A company was formed late in the year to develop the steel industry in Mexico and has secured managers to take charge of an extensive steel plant at Chihuahua. During the year 40 per cent of the tonnage of the freight hauled by the Mexican Central Railway was ore. The high prices obtained during the year by quicksilver and tin resulted in prospecting for deposits of these minerals in Durango, Zacatecas, and Sonora. President ROBINSON, of the Mexican Central Railway, estimated the gold product for 1899 of the Republic of Mexico at \$12,000,000. It was estimated that the exports of metals from Mexico during the year were valued at \$125,000,000, silver.

The Federal and State Governments devoted great attention during the year to the subject of irrigation and the utilization of rivers and water courses for furnishing motive power. Several large contracts were let for irrigation works in different parts of the Republic and the canalization of many streams was undertaken. In several places the motive power thus secured was used for electric lighting, traction, etc. At the National Agricultural School, on the outskirts of the City of Mexico, the initial experiments in the raising of flax were made with a view to the future production of linen. Like experiments were also conducted in the State of Tlaxcala. Foreign companies were attracted by the possibilities presented in the tropical portions of Mexico for tobacco, rubber, and sugar-cane culture, and much money was subscribed to promote the subject. A number of sugar plantations installed plants of modern machinery with electric motive power. The demand for Mexican cattle

for the Cuban market was even larger than in the year 1898 and gives promise of increasing during the present year.

In the industrial and manufacturing field great have been the strides during the year. Much foreign capital has been invested in factories, mills, and shops of all kinds. From July to December, 1899, 130 cotton mills paid into the National Treasury the sum of \$849,911.50, Mexican currency, in the way of a stamp tax.

The demand for United States machinery, especially in the way of electrical appliances, has been greater than during any other year. Many contracts were let to United States parties for improvements in several cities in the different States, such as paving, electric lighting, tramway building, waterworks, sewerage, etc. During the year the Government placed an order for 32,000 light-power military rifles with a New York firm, which was said to be the largest order of the kind placed in the United States by a foreign power in twenty-five years. The first electric railway system in the Republic was also inaugurated during the year. Several new banks were established in the principal cities of the different parts of the Republic. Several cities purpose advertising for bids for public improvements determined on during the course of last year.

Among the more noteworthy acts of the Government of general interest may be mentioned the conversion of the national debt which was effected in full for £22,700,000 at 5 per cent interest per annum; the opening of the new museum of Mexican products in the City of Mexico where are to be found constantly displayed articles of Mexican manufacture, and such as have been manufactured abroad of domestic raw material; the promulgation of the new railroad law of April 29, 1899, which went into effect on January 1, 1900; the concluding of a commercial treaty with China, the first that was ever negotiated between the two countries and which assures great advantages to them; the building of the new pier at Progreso, Yucatán; the ordering of the construction of four new light-houses and a light-house tender for the eastern coast of Yucatán; the awarding of a contract for the laying of a cable from the port of Altata, State of Sinaloa, to La Paz, Lower California; the ordering of a number of small steel gunboats in New Orleans; the opening of a number of new schools throughout the Republic, and the introduction of the latest improved school furniture from abroad; signing of a convention for the mutual exchange of money-order business between the United States and Mexico, which went into effect on January 1 last, and which will be of much benefit to trade between the two countries; the undertaking of negotiations tending to commercial reciprocity between Mexico and the Empire of Japan; the making of several contracts for new lines of steamers on both coasts of the country; the decision to reduce by at least \$4,000,000 the burden of taxes collected through the stamp act; the improvement of harbors and the determination to make good ports and havens on both coasts; the adding of several

hundred miles of telegraph lines, and the increasing to a very considerable extent of the post-offices and post roads throughout the country. Great advances were also made during the year in the methods for collecting, collating, and distributing the statistics properly coming under the Treasury Department.

On May 26, the work of the International Boundary Commission charged with settling the divisional line between Mexico and Guatemala was brought to a close. The Boundary Commission which, for some years past, has been determining the divisional line between Mexico and the United States, expired by conventional limitation in December, 1899.

One of the interesting events of the year was the solving of the problem of the preservation of the great Mexican drink known as *pulque*, two French residents of the City of Mexico having discovered a process by which the liquid may be kept in perfect condition for an indefinite time. A joint stock company with a capital of \$50,000 was formed in the capital of Mexico to place the article upon the market.

Mexico enters upon the new year with a larger unappropriated surplus in her Treasury than ever before in her history.

*Nicaragua.*—The future development of this Republic is believed to be largely dependent upon the building of the Interoceanic Ship Canal, thus developing the interior of the country as well as connecting the two great oceans and obviating the long route of steamships via Cape Horn; yet it can not be said that during the year 1899 any great degree of progress was made toward the consummation of this most important project, although a new Canal Commission was authorized by the Congress of the United States and appointed by President McKINLEY. This commission began its work of survey in Nicaragua during the month of December, and it is believed that some route will finally be decided upon before the closing days of 1900.

The Republic of Nicaragua lies in such a position that it can be easily developed. The country has many varieties of soil and climate, and is capable of producing almost any kind of a vegetable product. It has a coast line on the Caribbean Sea of about 300 miles and on the Pacific Ocean of 200 miles. The population is approximately 400,000, nearly one-half of whom are Indians. Of the remainder about 150,000 are of mixed blood, while the whites scarcely exceed 25,000.

Managua, the capital city, on the eastern shore of a lake of the same name, has a population of 25,000, while Leon, the largest city, contains 40,000 people. The ports of entry on the Caribbean side are San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, and Cabo de Gracias a Dios and Bluefields. On the Pacific the ports of entry are Corinto and San Juan del Sur.

According to a British report the imports of the Republic in the year 1898 were \$2,789,366, of which amount \$680,753 were credited to the United States. This, however, does not correspond with the statistics furnished by the Treasury Department of the United States, which gives the total valuation of exports to Nicaragua for the year as



\$910,200. The same British report gives the exports from Nicaragua for 1898 as \$3,098,231, the United States receiving of this total \$836,952. According to the Treasury statistics for 1898, furnished by the United States Government, the total amount of merchandise imported from Nicaragua was valued at \$1,095,865, of which \$1,047,504 was free of duty. The statistics for 1899 are not available, but according to an advanced statement issued by the Treasury Department of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, the imports from Nicaragua amounted to \$1,514,630 and the exports to that country to \$1,186,950, which is an increase in the case of imports of nearly 50 per cent, while that of exports was substantial, though not nearly so great.

Coffee has been for years the principal article of export, Germany taking 70 per cent of the crop, but during the year 1899, owing to the low prices obtained for coffee and the increased demand for rubber, there has been a great development in the production of the latter commodity. The coffee plantations remain, however, and with the prospect of increased prices for the berry in 1900 the crop will no doubt be greatly augmented.

There has also been an increase in the production of bananas, which are nearly all exported to the United States. Gold and silver are being exploited to a greater degree than heretofore, and during the year the MONTHLY BULLETIN has contained accounts of shipments of these ores to the United States for smelting. A number of United States citizens have located in Nicaragua during the past few months for the purpose of engaging in the cultivation of rubber. Others are engaged in shipping tropical fruits and are located at Bluefields. When it is an assured fact that the Interoceanic Canal will be built through Nicaraguan territory, many other capitalists and settlers will be attracted from the United States. During the year a treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation with Guatemala was negotiated and subsequently ratified by Congress. On July 26, Gen. E. P. ALEXANDER, "Engineer Arbitrator," announced "Award No. 4" to the Boundery Commissions of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. This was that "the shore line of Lake Nicaragua, at the level of 106 feet, by the bench marks of the United States Nicaragua Canal Commission shall be taken as the bank of said lake referred to in the Treaty [between the two countries] of 1858."

Unfortunately, internally the Republic of Nicaragua was much disturbed during the early part of the year. On December 3, 1898, the Federation known as the United States of Central America having collapsed, Nicaragua issued a decree resuming her full sovereignty, and, on December 4, President ZELAYA appointed a new Cabinet, and an insurrection arose in January. On February 15, 1899, Nicaragua was declared in a state of siege by President ZELAYA. On February 25, the insurrection was reported suppressed by the Presidential forces. On February 28, General REYES, the insurgent leader, surrendered at Bluefields

to the United States and British naval commanders. On that day marines from the British cruiser *Intrepid* and the United States gunboat *Marietta* landed and took temporary possession of Bluefields, and after restoring order reembarked. On May 6, the United States made a temporary arrangement with Nicaragua regarding the claims of United States merchants in Bluefields who had paid import dues to both the regular and the insurgent Governments.

During the year the diplomatic relations between the United States and Nicaragua were greatly strengthened by the promotion of Señor DON LUIS F. COREA from Chargé d'Affaires to Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Nicaragua near the United States. The new Minister, who was publicly received by President McKinley on September 11, is one of the youngest members of the Diplomatic Corps at Washington, but has had a distinguished career, having filled many important positions both in Nicaragua and Guatemala, and is considered one of the foremost lawyers of Central America. He has also been appointed diplomatic representative of his country in Chile. During the recent session of the International Commercial Congress Señor COREA took an important part in the proceedings and his addresses on the resources and progress of Nicaragua and the Inter-oceanic Canal, which showed evidences of great research, were reprinted in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for November and December and attracted great attention.

Owing to the restoration of peace in internal affairs, the rise in the price of coffee during the latter part of the year, the development of the rubber industry, and the increased and growing demand for tropical fruits the commercial outlook for Nicaragua for the year 1900 would appear to be extremely favorable.

*Paraguay.*—The landlocked position of this Republic gives it a unique character. After being for many years undefined, the boundaries of the country were definitely settled in 1870 by an international commission. Lying at the point of confluence of two rivers—the Parana and Paraguay—the territory of the Republic is divided by the latter stream into two distinct sections situated, respectively, east and west. The area is 148,000 square miles and the population is estimated at about 500,000, including 60,000 civilized and 70,000 uncivilized Indians.

The chief industry is the cultivation and exportation of yerba maté. There are, however, vast forests containing valuable timber, some of which is exported to other South American and European countries. From developments in 1899 it would appear that the industry which is destined to bring the most money into the Republic is the raising of live stock; especially is this true of cattle, as there are now within the confines of the country 2,000,000 head, with accommodations for many millions more. At present over 100,000 hides are being exported annually. Tobacco is also being cultivated to a considerable extent, and sugar and cotton are attracting attention.

Paraguay's foreign commerce is chiefly carried on through the ports of Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, and Montevideo, Uruguay, consequently there is but little direct trade with the United States and European countries. For this reason the name Paraguay scarcely appears in the statistical tables issued by the Treasury Department of the United States and those promulgated by other countries. However, as has been noted by the United States Minister and various Consuls, a considerable proportion of the value of exports and imports credited to the Argentine Republic and Uruguay in the United States summary in reality was destined for Paraguay. The same is true as to the commercial transactions with other countries, except her immediate neighbors.

Asunción, the capital, is the largest city of the country. It is situated on the left bank of the Paraguay River, in latitude  $25^{\circ} 18'$  south (corresponding with latitude north of the Equator with the city of Monterey, Mexico) and in longitude  $57^{\circ} 30'$  west from Greenwich (considerably east of the United States), and has about 25,000 inhabitants.

During the year 1899 the affairs of the Republic have been administered by Señor DON EMILIO ACEVAL (and his Cabinet), who was inaugurated November 25, 1898. A sketch of the President, who, though a comparatively young man, is deservedly popular, together with a translation of his inaugural address, appeared in the February number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN. President ACEVAL had previously held a number of important positions in the service of his Government, and had visited a number of foreign countries, including the United States, for which he expressed the greatest admiration.

The United States is represented in Paraguay by a resident Consul and Vice-Consul at Asunción, while Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, who resides in Montevideo, Uruguay, is also credited to Paraguay and visits the country as occasion requires. Hon. JOHN STEWART, who resides in Washington, is the principal consular representative of Paraguay in the United States.

During the year 1899 the MONTHLY BULLETIN has contained a number of articles with reference to the requirements of Paraguayan trade as noted by the United States Minister, Consuls, and others, and has directed attention to the various products of that country.

During the latter part of the year Asunción was visited by the plague, or a disease resembling it. The number of deaths reported was small, but the very presence of such an affliction drove the greater part of the commerce away. The disease was brought from Oporto, Portugal. Latest advices would indicate that the epidemic was almost entirely eliminated under the wise supervision of the governmental authorities. During the earlier part of the year the Republic made steady but quiet progress, but, during the prevalence of the plague, the Government prohibited exports and business was almost entirely suspended. During December business was again reviving and the prospects for 1900 are bright.

*Peru.*—Undoubtedly the Republic of Peru made substantial progress during 1899, and the conditions at the close of the year foreshadow greater prosperity in 1900.

Since Peru was shorn of its southern Provinces as a result of its war with Chile, it has been progressing steadily, but slowly. At present the country is reasonably prosperous, and its affairs are well managed by the present head of the State.

Under President DE PIEROLA'S administration the gold standard was adopted and a new tariff law was promulgated on January 1. Subsequently there were minor modifications to this law, the most notable being the reduction of one-fourth the export duty on cacao. The tariff specifications were reprinted in the MONTHLY BULLETIN during the course of the year. According to a British report, the customs dues are to be paid in pounds sterling, and the *libra*, equal in value to £1 (\$4.866), is reported by the "Journal of Finance," New York, to have become the unit of value of the country, displacing the *sol*, but this has not been confirmed by the Treasury authorities of the United States.

In order to call the attention of the world to the great value and diversity of the natural products of Peru, early in the year the Government issued quite a comprehensive pamphlet in Spanish, which was subsequently translated into English, French, and possibly other languages, for free distribution. This contains a description of the different sections of the country, together with the agricultural conditions and the products peculiar to each. This publication, though modest in tone and making no attempts to conceal the drawbacks to the settlement and exploitation of certain portions of the country, can not help but redound to the benefit of the Republic. This pamphlet was subsequently enlarged and revised and is having an extensive circulation.

In May, the regular Presidential election was held, resulting in the selection of Don EDUARDO LOPEZ DE ROMANA as President and Dr. ISAAC ALZAMORA and Don FEDERICO BRESANI as first and second Vice-Presidents, respectively. The new President was inaugurated, and his Cabinet Ministers sworn in on September 8, 1899.

On May 11, the Government invited bids for the construction of the Oroya and Cerro de Pasco Railroad, and the contract was subsequently awarded to ERNEST THORNDIKE, a British subject. When completed (several years hence) this will be one of the greatest feats of engineering skill in South America, and its effect as the outlet for the rich mineral products of the country will be incalculable.

On October 25, the Peruvian Congress passed an act authorizing the President, either directly or through inviting bids, to contract for the reconstruction of the railroad from Ilo to Moquegua. The concessionary is to have the exclusive right to operate the line for thirty years; is to be guaranteed for ten years 6 per cent interest on a capital of £50,000, the approximate value of the work.

Mining is the chief industry of the Republic, the minerals so far obtained in paying quantities being gold, silver, copper, coal, sulphur and petroleum. During the year new deposits of copper, sulphur, and petroleum were discovered and are now being exploited. The petroleum wells are being developed by experienced prospectors from the oil regions in the United States. The principal agricultural products exported are sugar, wool, cacao, rubber, Peruvian bark, cocoa leaves, and crude cocaine, the United States taking the greater part of the latter commodity.

There is a large production of sugar in northern Peru, and as the cane fields are irrigated they are able to continue the grinding of the cane about nine months in the year. This renders the production of sugar possible at a very low cost. Most of the plantations are owned by foreigners, principally Englishmen and citizens of the United States, and from them they derive a large revenue. Another production of northern Peru is cotton of a very peculiar quality and fiber. It is especially adapted for mixing with woolen goods, and the United States imports it more or less for use in its woolen mills.

Within the past few months the agitation for the irrigation of the arid and semiarid lands of the Republic has been revived. It is pointed out that the old irrigation canals of the Lucas can be utilized to a great extent, and that their methods of production should be followed.

On July 28, President DE PIEROLA announced the acceptance by his Government of the Postal Convention with the United States.

Though not known as a manufacturing country, there are, however, a number of factories, mainly in Lima, which supply the local wants to a great extent. These include establishments for the manufacture of cigars, furniture, shoes, articles of wearing apparel, and biscuits. There are also a number of tanneries and a few cotton and woolen mills.

During the year a steamship service was established between Lima and the ports of Chile and Central America, with an occasional extension to San Francisco. Steps have also been taken for the establishment of a line from Spain direct to Peru. The construction of a new railway from Pacasmayo to Hualgayoc and of a new pier at the former place was begun. A new banking institution (Banco Popular) was organized in Lima, and an English commercial college, under the patronage of the Chamber of Commerce of the same city, was inaugurated during the year. A pavilion was constructed under Government supervision for the exhibition of Peruvian products at the Paris Exposition in 1900, many of the proposed exhibits having been already forwarded to France.

One of the graceful acts of the Government during the year was in deference to the wishes and customs of foreigners, who are becoming more numerous in the country. This was the issuance of a decree prescribing the mode of legal proof to be followed by persons desiring to

marry outside of the established church—Roman Catholic—which had not previously been sanctioned by the Government, much to the embarrassment of those of other faiths who desired to reside within the confines of or become citizens of the Republic.

Within the last few months the local press of the country has been appealing to the Government for diplomatic representation in the City of Washington, and the appointment of an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, which has been temporarily denied, but which, it is thought, will be carried into effect during the year 1900.

*Salvador.*—Salvador is the smallest of the Central American Republics and is the only one that has no Atlantic seacoast. On the Pacific it has a coast line of 139 miles. The area of the Republic is 7,255 square miles, with a population, estimated January 1, 1899, at 800,000, nearly one-fourth of whom live in the cities. Salvador, therefore, is more densely populated than any other of the Central American countries.

The Republic is divided into 14 departments, which are subdivided into 31 districts. The capital is San Salvador, situated in the department of the same name, 20 miles from the Pacific coast in the valley of Las Hamacas, at an elevation of about 2,200 feet above sea level. The ports of entry are La Unión, Acajutla, La Libertad, and El Triunfo. The first named has one of the best harbors on the Pacific Ocean in Central America.

The country is fertile and rich in timber, dyewoods, and medicinal plants, and has considerable deposits of gold, silver, lead, and other minerals. Coffee grows in all the departments, and sugar, india rubber, cacao, cotton, and tobacco are produced. Cattle raising has received much attention within the past few years. During 1899 this industry was perhaps the most aggressive. Many cattle from Salvador were purchased by buyers from Honduras, who subsequently exported them to Cuba. A number of mines were also exploited in 1899 and the production of minerals was greatly increased. The "Butlers' Salvador Mining Company" was organized in Great Britain, in August, with a capital of £150,000.

The commerce of Salvador with the United States is conducted at a great disadvantage via the Isthmus of Panama and the Pacific coast ports, and as yet there is no railway connecting the interior of the country with the ports of neighboring Republics on the Atlantic coast. The exports, however, are greater to the United States than to any other country, but the greatest percentage of import trade is credited to Great Britain, with the United States second.

During the year 1899 the country was peaceful, and there was a noticeable improvement over the financial conditions which prevailed in 1898 and for several years previous. The higher prices of coffee, which is the chief product of the country, in the latter months of 1899 and the production and price of india rubber, which is being produced in

greater quantities than ever before, would augur well for the prosperity of the Republic in 1900.

On August 9, the Government issued a decree prohibiting the importation of silver coin of a less fineness than 900, and that are not of legal weight. On October 6, the mint property, which had previously been under the control of a private company, was purchased by the Government for £17,500.

Salvador has not been represented abroad to any great extent by Ministers and Consuls, but a movement was inaugurated in October, 1899, to send a diplomatic representative of the country to the principal nations of the world. As a beginning ex-President ZALDIVAR was sent to Mexico as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. Señor ZALDIVAR is also accredited to several other countries, and the United States may be added to the number.

*Santo Domingo.*—The Republic of Santo Domingo, known otherwise as the Dominican Republic, comprises the eastern and much the larger part of the Island of Haiti, the remainder of the island being the Republic of Haiti. In the latter country the French language prevails, and in the former Spanish is the language of the people, though in the towns both English and French are spoken. The area of Santo Domingo is 18,045 square miles, with an estimated population of about 600,000, composed principally of mixed races. The city of Santo Domingo is the oldest existing settlement by white men in America, and was founded by Bartholomew Columbus in 1496 at the mouth of the River Ozama on the southern coast. The population is 25,000.

In order of value, the principal agricultural products of the Republic are tobacco, coffee, cacao, sugar, mahogany, logwood, hides, and goat-skins. The quality of the coffee grown is excellent and is nearly all exported to Europe. During 1899, large quantities of fine bananas were exported to the United States. There was also increased activity in mining and in the search for valuable minerals. Several prospectors from the United States were reported as having visited the island in 1899 for the purpose of examining its mineral deposits, and some investments were made in such properties.

The foreign commerce of the country is mainly with the United States, Spain, Germany, Great Britain, and France. The European commerce is said to be passing into German hands or into German houses in England almost entirely. In June, 1899, the Government decreed that all import duties must be paid in United States gold. The commercial conditions of the country, while far from satisfactory, show considerable improvement over 1898. Among the improvements for the year have been the exploitation of two railway projects, one by the Government and the other by a German company. A concession for another railway has been granted to United States citizens.

The question of the line of demarcation from Haiti, which has caused some friction between the two countries, was satisfactorily settled at a

meeting at Mole St. Nicholas on May 28, which was attended by the Presidents of both San Domingo and Haiti.

The peace of the country has been greatly disturbed during most of the year. On July 26, 1899, General ULISES HEUREAUX, the President of the Republic, was assassinated while serving his fifth term as President. This act was followed by a revolution, and during the interim between the date of the assassination and the proclamation of peace—a period of about two months—General WENCESLAO FIGUERO acted as President. At the election to fill the vacancy General JUAN ISIDRO JIMENEZ was chosen President and has assumed the office. Since then the country is reported to be at peace.

*Uruguay.*—The financial and commercial conditions of Uruguay have shown substantial progress during the year 1899. Cordial relations between this country and the United States have been greatly strengthened, and the local press declares that Uruguay should be represented at Washington by an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. The Government, through Congress, is reported to have made provision recently for a Minister Resident near the Government of the United States.

The present President, Señor Don JUAN LINDOLFO CUESTAS, was formerly President of the Senate, becoming acting President of the Republic on the assassination of President BORDA. In 1898 Señor CUESTAS was elected by the people and assumed the Presidency about the close of the year. He was born in 1837, and has held many positions of prominence previous to his election to the Chief Magistracy. He has selected as his Ministers men having the confidence of the people, and his Administration has shown itself devoted to their welfare and the prosperity of the country. The Republic is at peace, and notwithstanding the heavy expenses incurred by the previous civil struggle the present efforts have greatly strengthened Uruguay's credit in the financial centers of the world.

There have been many internal improvements during the year under Government auspices or with its sanction. Much has been said with reference to the harbor improvements at Montevideo, which will cost from \$12,500,000 to \$15,000,000. A wharf at Playa Honda has been constructed especially for the convenience of live-stock shippers. Several projects for the construction of telephone lines at State expense are being entertained by the Government.

The finances of the Government are on a gold basis. Its *peso* or dollar is worth \$1.034 in United States currency, a standard higher than that of any other nation. During the year, Uruguay has renewed its treaties with Great Britain and Germany.

In agricultural production increases are noted in several lines. Special attention has been paid to rice culture, viticulture, and fruit raising, and the production of sugar shows a great activity. More care is being taken in the raising and exporting of live stock, while quanti-



ties of animal products, such as wool, hides, jerked beef, hair, horns, etc., have been shipped to foreign countries. Leibig's extract of beef is made at factories in this country. Gold has been discovered and a French company is reported to be securing good returns from a mine recently exploited.

As a market for manufactured products Uruguay is attracting the increased attention of European exporters, notably those of France, Germany, Spain, and Portugal. Permanent exhibition of the manufactured products of Spain and Portugal have been inaugurated in Montevideo, and the French Minister is asking that exporters of his Government should also establish such an institution.

At various times during the year the United States Minister and Consuls have attracted the attention of American manufacturers to the demands for certain lines of goods consumed in the Republic. At a recent session of the International Commercial Congress, Señor DON PRUDENCIO DE MURGUIONDO, Consul-General of Uruguay in the United States, outlined the necessities of Uruguayan trade, concluding by saying that "what is principally needed to increase trade between the United States and Uruguay is the establishment of good lines of steamers."

This Republic, though small, contains perhaps the most desirable portion of South America for agriculture. It has always been prosperous, and has always maintained a gold standard. President QUESTAS has the confidence of the commercial classes, and the country is peaceable and prosperous. The street-railway system of Montevideo is being converted to the use of electricity. The commerce of Uruguay has felt the same benefits that accrue to the Argentine Republic in the steady advance in the value of its principal products.

*Venezuela.*—The area of the Republic of Venezuela is twice that of France, but fully one-half of it is still virgin forest, while the remainder is about equally divided into agricultural and grazing sections.

The chief exports are coffee, cacao, cattle, hides, rubber, woods, asphalt, copper, and gold in bars. Of an aggregate of exports of about \$20,000,000, coffee represents nearly or quite three-fourths of this amount. The United States is the principal market for the country.

The size and natural wealth of Venezuela are not generally realized. Its greatest length is nearly 1,000 miles and its greatest width about 800 miles. It has about 2,000 miles of coast line, with numerous harbors. The country is capable of producing almost all kinds of vegetable products, and hardly a mineral is known that may not be found in greater or less quantities within its limits. Of these, gold, sulphur, copper, lead, iron, silver, and coal can be and are mined at a profit. It has all varieties of climate and, generally speaking, is healthy.

Unfortunately, commercially, for the countries trading with Venezuela, and for the peace and order of the country itself, during the year 1899 the Republic suffered from revolutions. On February 20, Presi-

dent GUERRA, of the new State of Guarico, started an insurrection against the Government of President ANDRADE, which was, however, suppressed on March 4. In September Gen. CIPRIANO CASTRO organized a revolt, and on the 26th of the same month was joined by Gen. GUZMAN ALVAREZ, Governor of Bermudez. On September 29 General CASTRO established a Provisional Government at Valencia. After a number of encounters between the forces of General CASTRO and those of President ANDRADE, the troops of the latter were disbanded. On October 23, General CASTRO was warmly received by the people of Caracas, and on the following day formed a Government. The battle of Puerto Cabello, at which there was heavy fighting with considerable loss of life and great destruction of property, was the decisive battle of the war. On October 28, a revolution against this new Government was inaugurated by Gen. JOSÉ MANUEL HERNÁNDEZ, which was quickly suppressed.

The view most generally accepted as the cause of these revolts was the division by President ANDRADE of the 9 States and Federal District into 20 States, or, in other words, the cause was purely political. General CASTRO has been recognized by almost all the nations of the world, and cordial relations have been established between the new Government and that of the United States. Ex-President ANDRADE is now a resident of Puerto Rico. The resignation of Señor Don JOSÉ ANDRADE, Minister to the United States, was due to these revolutions.

One of the most important events of the year was the settlement, by the Arbitration Tribunal of Paris, of the boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana, thus putting an end to a controversy which had caused much friction between Great Britain and Venezuela for more than fifty years. A new tariff law was enacted during the year, but on November 15 it was repealed and the tariff law of 1897-98 substituted.

Without entering into extensive details the following are noted as among the events connected with the commercial and other development of the country which occurred in 1899: Inauguration by the Hamburg-American Line of a steamship service from European to Venezuelan ports; the leasing of the Guanta coal mines to an Italian firm for a period of fifteen years; the erection, by United States citizens, of the Government warehouses at La Gnaira and Maracay; the organization of a cotton-goods manufactory for the erection of a factory at Caracas; the reopening of the El Callao gold mines; the award of the contract for a railway from Puerto Cabello to Yaritagua; the decision by the Supreme Court in favor of a United States Company as to the ownership of the Orinoco iron mines; the establishment of a United States banking firm at Caracas; the establishment of new harbor regulations at Puerto Cabello; the award of contracts for paving Caracas; the award of the contract for water-works at Cua; the sale of the Carnero Railway (gauge, 3 feet; length,

20½ miles) to Señor A. CRASSUS; the enactment of a Congressional decree relative to the registration of foreign companies, and a contract for the cultivation of henequén between H. PINANGO LARA and the Venezuelan Government.

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## THE RAILWAY OF THE THREE AMERICAS.

"The Railway of the Three Americas," by FREDERIC EMORY, formerly Director of the Bureau of the American Republics, is a most interesting contribution to the "Conservative Magazine" for November, 1899. Mr. EMORY has long been a close student of international commercial affairs, and as Chief of the Bureau of Foreign Commerce of the Department of State of the United States has earned an enviable reputation among the business men of the country by his careful and intelligent editing of the Consular reports, which have become the most valuable agency for the dissemination of foreign commercial news. For over a year Mr. EMORY, in addition to his other exacting work, directed the affairs of the Bureau of the American Republics and had thus a special opportunity to investigate matters directly affecting the trade interests of this Continent.

The project of a great railway system connecting all the countries on the American hemisphere may be called a bold one, and Mr. EMORY's statement that when HINTON ROWAN HELPER first brought the idea to public notice in definite form by depositing \$5,000 in a bank in St. Louis, which he offered as prizes for essays on the subject, he was the object of general ridicule. Mr. EMORY traces the early agitation of the subject, and of kindred undertakings of magnitude—some of which are now finished, others in the process of completion—to the action of the International American Conference, and the result of the surveys made by the Intercontinental Railway Commission, and further presents observations deduced from his own careful study.

"There can be," says Mr. EMORY, "hardly any dispute among ourselves as to the sincerity of popular interest in the United States in the future peace and prosperity of the countries to the south of us. This feeling is not merely one of sentiment, due to the fact that all these countries, like ourselves and following our example, revolted from the despotic control of a European power, and, sooner or later, modeled their forms of Government upon ours. It has a practical basis in the fact that the Latin-American Republics offer great possibilities to United States capital," etc. Mr. EMORY points out that the manufacturers of the United States have long been restless over the fact that so large a share of the trade of Latin-America still remains in the hands of the Europeans, and discusses the present situation in its

various phases, as may be seen from the following pertinent extracts from his excellent article:

"The condition of our trade relations with the Latin-American countries would seem to furnish the surest index of popular support which may reasonably be expected from those countries in behalf of any great international enterprise involving the cooperation of all.

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"The great drawback to advancement in most of the Latin-American countries is the lack of adequate means of communication between them.

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"Interchange of products would mean interchange of ideas and the elements of progress which each might possess or acquire.

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"Industrially we need fear no rival in the future struggle for Latin-American trade.

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"Our interest in the 'Three Americas Railway,' if not direct nor so immediate as some of the more enthusiastic advocates of the project contend, is neither so altruistic nor so remote as its opponents are wont to claim. It would seem to rest upon a substantive basis in the practical benefit to us, as well as to the Latin-American countries.

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"If the railway were carried to successful completion through our initiative and help, it would also create an atmosphere throughout Latin-America distinctly favorable to us as against European influences, influences which have sprung from long association in trade intercourse and settled habits in the purchase of goods.

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"If the construction of the railroad was accompanied by the establishment of adequate steamship communication with the chief Latin-American ports, it is more than probable that, with favorable reciprocity agreements, an active trade with the whole of Latin-America would gradually follow.

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"The attitude of Latin-Americans toward us is, of course, a factor of prime importance in the problem.

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"I venture to hazard the opinion that among intelligent Latin-Americans there is but one feeling—that of sincere friendliness.

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"In some quarters, perhaps, there may be apprehension, more or less vague, of the influence we might exert in their political affairs, and it is to be regretted that this feeling finds some justification in the tone of condescension or patronage into which our badly informed orators and newspapers have occasionally been betrayed.

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"Political conditions, which are still so unsettled and shifting in some of the Latin-American countries, would undoubtedly be tranquilized, in course of time, by the infusion of economic influences which would better the condition of the people, and provide a variety of incentives to a greater degree of order and stability, and it may be assumed that the closer and more general the intercourse with our people the greater would be the progress toward the art of self-government copied from us, and heretofore practiced on theoretical lines with but little of outside aid or example to offset the troublesome legacy of centuries of Spanish misrule. The Latin-Americans, long habituated to the control of Spanish aliens, with scarcely any voice in their own affairs, emancipated themselves by heroic effort and established governments of their own, only to find that generations of despotism had left them a long train of impediments to overcome in their ardent efforts to attain that degree of political freedom and self-control which they envied in us.

"The wonder is not that disorders occur, but that political evolution toward comparative peace and tranquility has made the progress it has in some of those countries where the iron hand of arbitrary power was, for so long a period, the only political force which the people respected or understood. The results of the effort to ingraft free institutions upon a stock so strange to them—however partial and unsatisfactory they may be held to be—are at least sufficient to encourage the hope that, with a strong prepossession in our favor, the Latin-American peoples may move forward at an accelerated pace, in close association with us, when the channels of intercourse shall have been deepened and broadened, and all trade obstacles are cleared away. In these aspects of the question, the proposition to build an intercontinental railroad would seem to take a practical form, and to promise results which make it worthy of serious study."

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## DIAGRAMS OF AMERICAN TRADE MOVEMENTS.

The diagrams which indicate the trend of commerce between the United States and Mexico, Central and South America, and the West Indies appearing in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for January, 1900, show the movement year by year, during the decade, of the great articles entering into the commerce between North and South America, and enable the eye to follow at a glance the upward or downward course of this trade. They are prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, and are based upon tables compiled from a volume entitled "American Commerce," issued for general distribution by that Bureau in June, 1899, which volume covers in great detail the commerce of each country of Central and South America, as well as Mexico and the West Indies, during a term of years, and the commerce between

the United States and those countries since the early years of the century, and thus becomes a useful reference volume to all interested in these subjects.

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## DR. MARTÍN GARCIA MÉROU.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bureau of the American Republics, the proceedings of which were published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for December, Dr. MARTÍN GARCIA MÉROU, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Argentine Republic, took leave of his associates and announced that he would start for his home almost immediately. Señor MÉROU had ably represented his country at Washington since June 26, 1896, when he was received by President CLEVELAND, and proved himself a wise diplomat as well as a genial gentleman. He left the United States to accept, only at the earnest solicitation of President ROCA, the portfolio of Minister of Agriculture, after having once declined it.

Although still a young man, being only 39 years of age, Dr. GARCIA MÉROU has had a brilliant political career. He entered the diplomatic service of his country in 1880, and in 1881 was appointed Second Secretary to Dr. MIGUEL CANE, who was sent on a special mission to the Congress which met in Panama. Subsequently he was Secretary of the Argentine Legations in the Republics of Colombia and Venezuela. In 1883 he was appointed Secretary of the Legation in Madrid, being transferred in 1885 to the Paris Legation. In 1886 he retired from the latter position and returned to the Argentine Republic, taking up journalism as a profession.

Soon after his return he became Private Secretary to President ROCA. At the close of that Administration, in 1888, Dr. MÉROU reëntered the diplomatic service, being sent to Paraguay as Resident Minister. At that time he was but 26 years of age, and it is a notable fact that he was the youngest man ever appointed by his Government to such a responsible position.

In 1891 he was transferred to Peru as Minister Plenipotentiary. On his arrival at Lima he was enthusiastically received by the University students and was made an honorary member of the Atheneum. The address which he delivered on that occasion attracted attention at every capital in South America. In 1894 he was transferred to Brazil and became quite prominent there. His efforts in behalf of the development of commerce between the Argentine Republic and Brazil were crowned with signal success, and before his departure from Rio de Janeiro he had established an unexcelled reputation for integrity and energy, the press tendering him unanimous encomiums. When his successor was received the President of Brazil, in his welcoming address, accorded Dr. GARCIA MÉROU high praise. The Historical

and Geographical Institute of Brazil, founded in 1838, appointed Dr. MÉROU honorary member. This is one of the highest intellectual associations of South America, and only two other citizens (both ex-Presidents) of the Argentine Republic have been so signally honored.

The portfolio of the Ministry of Agriculture is new to the Argentine Republic and its institution is credited to the suggestion of Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, late United States Minister to the Argentine Republic. Mr. BUCHANAN, from experience in the United States, was aware of the value of such a department, and Dr. FRERE, who was the first to fill the office in the Argentine Republic, did much to justify its creation. The choice of Dr. MÉROU for the position would indicate that President ROCA desires to further extend the influence for good of this Department.

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## HONORARY CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

Since the December BULLETIN was issued two more gentlemen have been added to the list of Honorary Corresponding Members of the International Union of American Republics. They are Señor Don FRANCISCO ANDRADE MARÍN, who will represent the Union and the Bureau at Quito, Ecuador, and from time to time furnish interesting matter to the readers of the BULLETIN, and Señor Don JOSÉ D. GÁMEZ, who will act as correspondent at Managua, Nicaragua. Unfortunately the BULLETIN is unable at this time to furnish a biographical sketch of the first-named gentleman, but will remedy the omission in the future.

Señor JOSÉ DOLORES GÁMEZ was born on July 12, 1851, in Granada, on the shores of the great Lake of Nicaragua. He was educated at the University of Granada. At the age of 21 he voluntarily exiled himself for political reasons, and for three years resided in different parts of Central America, returning at the end of that time to his native land and establishing himself at Rivas, devoting himself to agricultural pursuits. In 1878 he began to write for the press, and published a small novel on local customs. A short time afterwards his political career began, and he was elected a deputy to the National Congress.

A rehearsal of his political life would be so prolific of incident and adventure that space forbids it. Having been exiled, he established himself in Quezaltenango, an important city of Guatemala, and assumed charge of "El Bien Público," a leading newspaper, wherein he espoused and supported the principles of the Liberal party. While thus engaged he wrote the history of Nicaragua, the work which has given him the greatest reputation. Subsequently he published other works, and returning in 1892 to Managua, he took part in the revolution of that year until he entered the capital of the Republic at the side of his victorious chief, General ZELAYA, the actual President. Señor GÁMEZ has been Minister of Public Works, of the Interior, of War, and of Foreign Relations

of Nicaragua, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of his country in Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica, President of the Legislative Power, and latterly Delegate of the Executive Power, in which capacity he defended the city of Rivas against the revolutionists on February 8, 1898. Known as a journalist, as a historian, and as a statesman, Señor GÁMEZ is one of the most prominent men of the Liberal party in Nicaragua.

The Bulletin is enabled to furnish the following brief sketch of the public life of Señor Lic. Don FRANCISCO L. DE LA BARRA, one of the correspondents in the city of Mexico:

This gentleman was born on June 16, 1863. He has been a professor of mathematics in the National Preparatory School of Mexico since 1885. He was admitted to the bar in 1886, and was a member of the City Council of the capital in 1889-90. He was the delegate of the Mexican Academy of Legislation and Jurisprudence, of which he is an active member, to the Ibero-American Juridical Congress of Madrid in 1892. At about this same time he was elected Secretary of the Spanish-American Literary Congress which met in Madrid. He was also appointed Consul-General of the Argentine Republic *ad honorem*, which position he could not assume, as he was a Deputy of the Congress of the Union. He has been elected a Deputy for three terms. He is a member of the board of directors of the National College of Lawyers, an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Legislation and Jurisprudence of Madrid, and a corresponding member of the Coimbra Institute of Portugal.

As the Plenipotentiary of his country, Señor DE LA BARRA negotiated and concluded a Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation with the Netherlands, and negotiated and signed an *ad referendum* a Treaty of Extradition with the Kingdom of Italy. He is now, as stated in the November BULLETIN, advisory counsel of the Department of Foreign Relation, occupies the chair of philosophy in the National Preparatory School, and is counsel to the city council of Mexico. He has been favored with the decoration of Commander of the First Class of the Order of Charles III by Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, at the request of the Royal Academy of Jurisprudence of Madrid, and with that of Commander of the Crown of Italy by His Majesty King Humbert I.

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## INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONGRESS.

In conformity with the resolution passed at the Seventh International Maritime Congress at Brussels in 1898, the Eighth Congress will be held at Paris, commencing July 28 and ending August 3, 1900. The membership will include delegates from the Government of France and from foreign countries, those accredited by Chambers of Commerce, by cities, marine and towing associations, railway and other transport



companies, as well as those who may, prior to the opening of the Congress, express a wish to attend. The invitations have been issued by Messrs. G. MASSON and P. HOLTZ, respectively President of the Chamber of Commerce of Paris and Inspector-General of Bridges and Roads, who are at the head of a large committee of prominent citizens of France having the matter in charge.

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## BOOK NOTICES.

Books and pamphlets sent to the Bureau of the American Republics, and containing subject-matter bearing upon the countries of the International Union of American Republics, will be treated under this caption in the Monthly Bulletin.

"The Highest Andes" is the title of a book by E. A. FITZ-GERALD, published by Charles Scribner's Sons. It is the record of the first ascent of Aconcagua and Tupungato in the Argentine Republic, and the exploration of the surrounding valleys, with chapters by STUART VINES and contributions by Professor BONNEY, G. C. CRICK, R. I. POCKOCK, G. A. BOULENGER, I. H. BURKILL, and PHILIP GOSSE. It contains 2 maps by A. E. LIGHTBODY, 51 illustrations, and a panorama. Sir MARTIN CONWAY speaks in highest praise of this book. (See December, 1899, MONTHLY BULLETIN.)

Aconcagua rises some 23,080 feet above the level of the sea and is a little higher than any of its rivals in the Himalayan ranges thus far measured. The FITZ-GERALD expedition left Buenos Ayres on November 29, 1896, and did not return to England until January, 1898. The undertaking was a great success, the length of time consumed being largely due to the explorations on South American soil and the illness among members of the party after their work was finished. Mr. FITZ-GERALD was overcome by the rarefaction of the air and was unfortunately deterred from making the ascent, which was successfully done, however, by his faithful guide, ZURBRIGGEN, who was the first to reach the top of Aconcagua, followed by Mr. STUART VINES. The former stayed but a little while on the summit and Mr. VINES but eighty minutes. Determination and unceasing perseverance enabled the courageous mountaineers to accomplish the object of their journey to South America. They were obliged to work slowly and cautiously, and little rest was acquired even from sleep.

"One of the points that strike the visitor to these Andean valleys," says Mr. FITZ-GERALD, "is the terrible bleak and desolate aspect that they present, with only blades of grass here and there or perhaps a few stunted shrubs. Trees there are none; nothing but a huge expanse of yellow sand and stone, the peaks rising up on either side in extraordinary and rugged stratification, whose many-colored hues are bewildering."

ing to the eye. Great torrents flow down the middle of these valleys, the water being of a dull, blackish hue. The fording of the rivers is one of the most dangerous tasks of explorers in this country. The torrents are exceedingly rapid, and full of deep, treacherous holes."

The reader may learn many interesting facts from this book—that Aconcagua is not a volcano; that "the mountain is really built up by successive flows of lava, and is composed of varieties of andesites," and that there is no sign of a crater on it. In an appendix are notes on the boundary dispute between Chile and the Argentine Republic, on rock specimens, on fossils, and on the natural history of the Aconcagua Valley. The pictures which illustrate the text were obtained under great difficulty, the wind being so strong that it required the strength of three men to hold in place a 10-pound camera. The results have well repaid the author, and give the reader a vivid idea of the wonderful country and of Aconcagua and Tupungato by bringing their beauty and grandeur into his immediate view.

"Harper's Magazine" for January, 1900, has an article by Sir MARTIN CONWAY on "Mount Sarmiento," being the conclusion of a series written by him, the subjects being the several mountains which he has ascended in the Andes. (See November and December, 1899, MONTHLY BULLETINS.)

Sir MARTIN gives an extremely interesting and graphic description of the country through which he journeyed, delighting the reader with his narration of many varied experiences. He says: "Whatever the future may have in store for this great hilly area, it is clear that at present only the edges and accessible parts of it can have any commercial value. It was naturally to be expected that so difficult and remote a mountain region would have to wait its explorers for many years to come; but political accident has determined otherwise. The difference about their boundary between Chile and the Argentine Republic could only be settled when the country through which the boundary must run was surveyed. Thus both countries sent well-equipped and numerous expeditions into the disputed region to explore and survey it, with the result that when their work is given to the world the southern stretch of the Andes, right down to the Strait of Magellan, will be one of the best mapped mountain regions in the world."

When Sir MARTIN CONWAY formulated his plans to explore South America it was with the firm determination to acquire some information regarding the submerged parts of the Cordillera, as well as the snow-capped peaks of that region. He was particularly fortunate in this in finding a "Kosmos" steamer about to take the same trip and willing to spend some time on and beside the waters of Smyths Sound. From a climber's point of view, Mount Sarmiento, although only 7,200 feet high, is higher, larger, and more difficult to climb than Mount Blanc. The difficulties to a climber begin at sea level, and the glaciers that cover it are cataracts of broken ice. The peak is seldom free

from cloud and avalanches continually fall down its sides; its rocks are incrustated with icicles, and it is usually in the heart of a raging storm, thus keeping the snow on the upper portion always fresh. Cockburn Channel has the shape of a bent arm, and Mount Sarmiento stands at the elbow. In describing the ascent the writer says: "As we rose we commanded both branches of the sound. Higher and higher we climbed, till, at 5,000 feet or thereabouts, our ridge joined another from the right, and a cliff fell at our feet to a pass a couple of hundred feet down, dividing us from the final mass of Mount Sarmiento. The great glacier was now fully displayed beneath us, and we halted to sketch its outline. In one respect it resembles no other glacier I can remember. The great northern slope of Sarmiento, up which our farther route lay, is the gathering place of its snows. They pour down that face in a huge cataract of *nevé*."

The Government of the State of Pará has recently published a richly illustrated work entitled "Album do Pará em 1899 no Administração do Governo de Sua Excellencia o Senhor Dr. JOSÉ PAES DE CARVALHO." (Album of Pará in 1899 Under the Administration of His Excellency Senhor Dr. JOSÉ PAES DE CARVALHO.) The following interesting data is given in regard to the State of Pará: The production of rubber during the fiscal year July 1896-97 was 9,100,000 kilograms, while that of caoutchouc, which does not require such extensive preparation as the rubber tree, amounted in the two years 1895-1897 to 3,812,000 kilograms, exported to the United States and to Europe in about equal proportions. Cacao is a most important product of the State. In former times the harvest of this product along the banks of the Amazon was so great that the ships could not transport it and it had to remain unshipped. The present production of cacao varies between 3,500,000 and 5,500,000 kilograms. In 1897, however, it did not exceed 2,274,000 kilograms. As to nuts, in 1896 66,912 hectoliters were exported to the United States, while the total export amounted to 139,992 hectoliters. The possibilities for further exploitation of this article of commerce are great, since there are still whole forests of nut-bearing trees still untouched, and with proper facilities for transportation will yield large revenue. The fine quality of the tobacco of Pará is well known, and there is no doubt but that this product is one of the best sources of riches in the State. In 1896 there was marketed in the city of Pará 750,512 kilograms of tobacco, produced in the State and valued at 3,800 *contos*. Further products of export are sugar cane, tonka beans, vanilla, sarsaparilla, and wood, of which there are 87 varieties of first, 43 of second, and 73 of third quality.

"Apuntas sobre minería en el Perú" (Notes on mining in Peru), Lima, 1899. This is the title of a very important work by Señor Dr. TEODORICO OLAACHEA, professor of geology, mineralogy, and paleontology in the special engineering school of Lima. The author, after some general

observations on mining and periods through which Peru has passed, gives a scientific description of the present state of the industry, which is destined to enjoy a great development in the country should the authorities lend it the protection it requires and which is accorded it in other cultured countries. Mining is undoubtedly the principal Peruvian industry, not only because of the abundance of gold and silver in every department, but also by reason of the variety and abundance of other minerals, such as copper, iron, lead, cinabar, coal, petroleum, and many other substances that can be applied to the industries.

This industry, so advanced and so well protected during colonial times, began to decay under the Republic. The want of capital, of hands, of good means of communication, of technical knowledge, and of enterprising spirit, as well as the continuous political convulsions impeded its natural development. Business men saw more money in guano and nitrate, in State enterprises, and in institutions of credit, and made them the object of their speculations, thus disregarding mining. Since 1886, the guano and nitrate deposits having been lost and the National Treasury impoverished through the war with Chile, capitalists have again turned their eyes to mining. With the aid of foreign capital great companies are beginning to work the rich mineral region of Yuali and the oil deposits in Tumbes and Paita. The depreciation of silver in the world stimulated the exploitation of gold mines, and the discovery of the rich Santo Domingo mine in Carabaya opened up a wide field for speculation, which has been on the advance. The high price of copper, due to its application to electricity in industry, has extraordinarily favored mining in Peru, and has saved from ruin several important mining seats.

This Bureau has received the interesting and voluminous work of Don JUAN JOSÉ CASTRO, bearing the title "Estudio de los Ferrocarriles que Ligarán en el Porvenir las Repúblicas Americanas, presentado al Congreso Científico Latino-Americano de Buenos Aires" (Study of the Railroads that will in the Future Connect the American Republics, presented to the Latin-American Scientific Congress of Buenos Ayres, Montevideo, 1898). It is a notable treatment of the subject, and shows that the author has devoted much time and careful attention to it. The work contains eleven chapters, in which are skillfully described the iron bands which are destined to serve as bonds of union between the American Republics. Señor CASTRO shows in his work that he not only possesses great engineering attainments, but also the lofty views of a true statesman. He sets forth in detail all that constitutes the railroad system of South America, and makes especial mention of the systems which might be utilized to connect all the nations of the American continent.

It would be difficult to find a subject of greater interest and transcendence for the peoples of the New World than that which Señor CASTRO has selected for his important work, since in the realization of

the plan which he develops and explains with as much erudition as judgment seventeen Republics are interested. Annexed to the book of Señor CASTRO there are two maps, one of the railroads destined to unite in the future the nations of North, Central, and South America and the other of the great international lines which are to later on connect the South American countries. These maps show the lines in operation, under construction, surveyed, and to be surveyed. The work of Señor CASTRO deserves the attention of all the engineers interested in the construction of the Intercontinental Railroad.

According to the "Argentinisches Wochenblatt" the Argentine Republic will be represented at the Paris Exposition in a very interesting literary production. The "Compañía Süd Amerika de Billetes de Banco" is preparing a most instructive and attractive publication, to be in charge of Mr. CARLOS GALLARDO, formerly Commissioner-General of the Argentine Republic at the World's Fair in Chicago. The undertaking, which has received the heartiest approval of the chambers of commerce and industrial corporations of the Argentine Republic, will comprise a most complete description of the Republic, its sources of wealth, and cultural and economical factors.

The book will be divided into the following sections: (1) General description; (2) Position, boundaries, etc.; (3) The most important mountains and rivers; (4) Climate; (5) Geological data; (6) Mineral, vegetable, and animal products; (7) Political organization, government, etc.; (8) Laws of immigration and colonization; (9) Means of communication by water and land; (10) Demographic statistics, agriculture, cattle raising, commerce, and industry; (11) Army and navy; (12) Public instruction, scientific and art institutions, libraries, and museums; (13) Postal and telegraph connections; (14) Exchanges, banks, and insurance; (15) Journalism and literature; (16) Local government and police regulations of the capital city; (17) Hospitals and charitable institutions; (18) Health and hygiene; (19) Social life, theaters, clubs, etc. The publishers feel assured that the undertaking will be most successful and will give the widest publicity to the Argentine Republic.

An interesting work on the botanical origin of rubber and gutta-percha (*Origine botanique des Caoutchoucs et Gutta-Percha*) has recently been published by Mr. PAUL GRÉLOT, substitute professor at the High School of Pharmacy of Nancy.

The first three chapters are devoted to the study of the properties and composition of rubber, the history of its discovery and exploitation, and the different methods of gathering and coagulation used to-day in all the producing countries. The author, after having examined all the commercial kinds and given an idea of the actual commercial movement and of the experiments at cultivation attempted on every side, presents a scientific study of the lactiferous tubes and the latex, and lastly describes all the rubber plants actually known, as well as those

which are being studied commercially or whose classification is yet undetermined. The second part of the work is an analogous study of gutta-percha, in which the author also treats of some of the rubber substitutes, such as *balata*.

The volume abounds in interesting information, and new data are given to such a degree that even a publication of six months back is incomplete in comparison. A description will be found not only of the plants recognized as of rubber origin, but also of those described as such. Mr. GRÉLOT'S work is of value, containing as it does information enabling one to recognize the different kinds of rubber plants as well as to rectify some of the errors which have heretofore obtained in regard to them.

Señor Don JUAN JOSÉ CASTRO, ex-Minister of Public Works, of the Republic of Uruguay, has published a work with the title, "Puerto de Montevideo: Análisis Comparativos de las Soluciones Técnica y Financiera Proyectadas Respecto de este Asunto" (The Port of Montevideo: Comparative Analyses of the Projected Technical and Financial Solutions of this Subject. Montevideo, 1899. This is a defense of what was done while the portfolio of Public Works was under his charge for the improvement for the port of Montevideo. Señor CASTRO holds that the plan which ought to be adopted is the one presented by the engineer GUÉRARD, and he adduces powerful reasons in support of his opinion. According to Señor CASTRO, the execution of the said plan would entail an expense of \$14,264,500. The author goes exhaustively into the financial features of the project, and it is clear that he has made a special study of the matter. The whole work is written in a very clear style and gives a very accurate idea of the subject treated. Since Montevideo is one of the leading ports of South America, the necessity of making such improvements as shall place it at the height that the progress in navigation in our days demands is at once apparent. It is natural that a question of such vital importance to Uruguay should have awakened great interest in that country, which is evident from this important work of Señor CASTRO. The book contains in the way of illustrations three diagrams representing the plans which have been submitted for the betterment of the port.

"Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society, No. 7, 1899," relate entirely to the trial of GABRIEL DE GRANADA by the Inquisition in Mexico, 1642-1645, translated from the original by DAVID FERGUSON, of Seattle, Wash., with notes by Dr. CYRUS ADLER, of Washington, D. C. Colonel FERGUSON, who was an officer of the United States Army during the civil war, and at one time in command of the Department of Arizona, later located in Mexico, where he resided for twenty years. In addition to linguistic qualities of a high order, Colonel FERGUSON has been an indefatigable collector of rare manuscripts in the Spanish language, and it is due to this latter fact

that much highly valuable historical matter in regard to Mexico has been preserved and put into accessible form. He has translated thousands of pages of these manuscripts, some of which are now in the hands of the distinguished historian, Mr. HENRY C. LEA, of Philadelphia, and others with Dr. ADLER.

Mr. LEA in speaking of Colonel FERGUSON said that "No one knows more than he about the Mexican Inquisition or takes more interest in it." This special volume treats of the trial of a young Jewish boy of 13 years of age, and Dr. ADLER states that while it is not particularly interesting in itself, the record is practically complete, and therefore gives a good idea of the formalities and details of inquisitorial courts. It may be further stated that this is the first time that a full record of a trial by the Inquisition has ever been published in the English language.

"The Birds of Eastern North America: Part I, Water Birds; Part II, Land Birds—Key to the Families and Species" is the title of one of the most interesting additions to the records of ornithology which has appeared for many years in the United States. The work is by CHARLES B. CORY, Curator of the Department of Ornithology in the Field Columbian Museum of Chicago, Illinois. The work was prepared with a special view to meet the desire of many students of nature who are anxious to know the birds about them, but who have not the time nor desire to delve deeply into the subject. The author is to be felicitated upon having fulfilled his purpose in a terse and graphic manner. He has grouped the different species according to size, and thus enabled the novice to identify any of the American birds treated of—and their name may be said to be legion. A glossary precedes the introduction and gives the terms used in describing a bird, which render intelligible to the uninitiated many of the technical terms used in the body of the work. Profusely illustrated, and with directions how to measure a bird, and a full key to the families, Professor CORY has furnished those who love the feathered peoplers of the air with a treatise which can not fail to increase their knowledge of the families and species in eastern North America.

In the "Wide World" (London, England) magazine for December, 1899, the editor of the "Cactus Journal," Mr. F. A. WALTON, tells of strange adventures—tragic and comic—which he and his fellow collectors encountered while in search of different varieties of the cactus plant. Their journey was through the State of California and the Territory of Arizona, in the United States, and through the peninsula of Lower California and portions of Mexico contiguous to the State of Texas. Mr. WALTON illustrates his article with many remarkable photographs of quaint cacti—some of them curious freaks of the vegetable world.

The same magazine contains an article entitled "My Pilgrimage to

Caacupé," by Mr. NORMAN O. BROWN, of Asunción, Paraguay. This is a description, by an English resident of the Paraguayan capital, of some remarkable happenings witnessed by him in the picturesque village of Caacupé, Paraguay, which is a sort of South American Lourdes. The date of the festival is December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. For weeks in advance the *promeros*, or those persons who for various reasons have made vows to pay tribute to the Virgin of Caacupé, start from all portions of the Republic to fulfill the good resolutions they have made. The curious ceremonies and the scenes incident thereto are illustrated by reproductions of photographs which the author obtained on his visit.

What is said to be the finest library on textiles, either public or private, in the United States is owned by HENRY G. KITTREDGE, editor of the "Textile World," of Boston, a leading publication in its field. Mr. KITTREDGE has been appointed Assistant Director of Textiles at the Paris Exposition of 1900. He has a practical knowledge of every branch of the textile industry, a knowledge that comes from a long service as agent and superintendent of mills and the proprietor of two. During the past few years he has been devoting himself to the literature of the subject, and his writings have commanded wide attention both in America and Europe. His reports on the textile exhibits at the Centennial Exposition were of great value. He was appointed by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers on a committee to represent the domestic woolen manufacturers in their collective exhibit at the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893, and became the active spirit of that committee. In 1895 he was appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a member of the commission to represent that State at the Atlanta Exposition, and became its executive official.

A copy of the second edition, enlarged and corrected, of the "Geographical and Statistical Synopsis of Peru," published by the Government Printing Office at Lima, has recently been received by the Bureau Library. The first edition of this work appeared a few months ago and was quickly exhausted. The author, "G. R. G.," explains the appearance of this interesting work in the following words:

"In view of the great demand there was for the first edition of this pamphlet, and the numerous inquiries for it now that no more copies are to be had, the writer has been encouraged to offer to the public this second edition enlarged and revised, which he trusts may meet with as hearty a reception as did the former one.

The contents of the pamphlet, like the first edition, come under the following heads: Geography; Ethnography; Political Division; Government and Administration; Bureau of Foreign Affairs; Legal Status of Foreigners in Peru; Bureau of Justice, Worship, and Instruction; Home Office and Police; Post Office, Telegraph and Telephones; Police



System; Bureau of the Army and Navy; Finance and Commerce; Bureau of Public Works, etc.; the Great Central Highway; Public Works; Mines; New Enterprises.

Under the title of "Anuario Pillado" Señor Don RICARDO PILLADO has founded in Buenos Ayres a publication in which, very concisely, are given full data regarding the public debts of the Argentine Republic and the national and foreign joint stock companies which have interests in the country, including their present status, capital, reserve funds, dividends paid, and quotations of all their negotiable securities. This volume, a copy of which has been received by the Bureau, contains, besides what has been stated above, an historical review of paper money in the Argentine Republic from its origin in 1822, when its issue was authorized by legislative provision of June 19 of that year, down to the present day; an exhaustive description of the national territories; a list of the corporations formed during the year and another of those who have gone out of existence; statements showing the average gold quotations for the last fifteen years and the value of the national currency as compared with that of the rest of the world, as well as many other details of positive interest. Señor PILLADO'S work is most commendable and deserves being classed as an important medium of information for persons who desire to undertake business enterprises in the Argentine Republic.

A number of catalogues has been received by the Bureau of the American Republics relating to the different collections in the National Museum of Mexico, which are a most interesting and instructive addition to the library. They are, naturally, in the Spanish language, but most complete in every detail. They are as follows: Catalogue of the Anthropological Collection, published in 1895; Catalogue of the Bird Collection, published in the same year; Catalogue of the Reptile and Batrachian Collection, of the same year; Catalogue of the Fish Collection, published in 1896; Catalogue of the Mineral Collection, published in 1896; Catalogue of Monstrosities, in the same year; Catalogue of Mexican Plants, published in 1897; Catalogue of Imitations in Glass of Several Invertebrate Animals, published in the same year; Catalogue of the Fossil Collection, of the same year; Catalogue of the Department of Archæology, published in the same year; Catalogue of Mammals, published in 1898, and a Guide to the Historical Department of the Museum, published in 1899. Some of these catalogues are profusely illustrated and show that so far as concerns the completeness of the collections and the wide range they cover in the National Museum, Mexico has no cause to envy nations far older than she.

The Philadelphia Commercial Museum has published two monographs from the pen of Dr. GUSTAVO NIEDERLEIN, Chief of the Scientific Department. These monographs treat of the topography, geology,

mineral wealth, and soils of Costa Rica and Guatemala; describe their climate and present the details of their flora and fauna with reference to their economic value; display the distribution of population according to race, wealth, communities, and social conditions; examine the agricultural development of the Republics, including their live stock and forests, and, finally, recount the most important features of their commerce, industry, finance, and of their economic and political conditions. They are made up of observations and studies pursued in 1897 and 1898, during seven and a half months of economic and scientific explorations in Central America, and of facts garnered with great care from authoritative manuscripts, books, and official documents and publications.

In his annual report for 1898, issued in 1899, Mr. GEORGE A. NEWELL, the Commissioner of Mining for the State of Michigan, says: "In giving a practical illustration of the Michigan minerals which mother earth has yielded in the year, I will present the following homely picture: If all the iron ore produced for the year in the State of Michigan were cast into a steel rail weighing 50 pounds to the foot, the rail would encircle the globe one and one-half times. If the refined copper taken from the mines were drawn into a No. 12 telephone wire, that wire would reach around the world  $29\frac{1}{2}$  times. If the barrels of salt manufactured in Michigan for the year 1898 were set upon end, they would make an unbroken line 1,500 miles long. I estimate the marketed value of the minerals produced in the State for the year at \$38,825,000. Of this amount I credit iron ore with \$18,450,847, copper with \$16,834,670, and salt with \$2,686,272."

"*Altmexikanischen Studien II*: (1) Zauberei und Zauberer im alten Mexico; (2) Die bildlichen Darstellung der mexikanischen Jahresfeste; (3) Die achzehn Jahresfeste der Mexicaner. By EDWARD SELER. Berlin, 1899. Folio." (*Studies of Old Mexico. II*: (1) Sorcery and Sorcerers in Ancient Mexico; (2) A Hieroglyphic Representation of Mexican Yearly Festivals; (3) The Eighteen Feasts of the Mexican year.) Dr. SELER in the foregoing work, which appears in the annual publications of the Ethnographical Museum of Berlin, has rendered an important service to Mexican history, which will add greatly to the renown which he justly possesses in the field of letters and of science. To every one interested in archæological science this latest work of the distinguished author will prove a source of instructive pleasure. The work has met with a very warm reception on the part of Mexican scholars.

Bearing the title "*Diccionario de Barbarismos y Provincialismos de Costa Rica*" (Dictionary of Costa Rican Barbarisms and Provincialisms), Señor DON CARLOS GAGINI published in 1893 an interesting work which shows exhaustive study of the Castillian tongue and a profound knowledge of the same. Señor GAGINI'S effort was a laudable one,

and it is to be hoped that in all Spanish-American countries similar works will be published in order to preserve the purity of the fine Spanish language. Other notable writers, such as CUERVO, RODRÍGUEZ, PICHARDO, ARONA, and RIVODO have published works of the same character as that of Señor GAGINI, whose dictionary is of great utility not only in Costa Rica, but also in all the Republics of Central America and elsewhere in the world wherever the translator pursues his arduous task. The writers who, like Señor GAGINI, devote themselves to critical studies of language render a true service to Spanish-American letters, and their efforts are most worthy of encomium and imitation.

“Carpenter’s Geographical Reader,” by FRANK G. CARPENTER. American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago, 1899. Mr. CARPENTER is one of the most versatile newspaper correspondents in this country, and his contributions are produced simultaneously in more newspapers than perhaps any other writer in this field of work. He has made his mark as an observing traveler in many lands. The Geographical Reader has been prepared especially for children as an entertaining adjunct in their study of geography. He takes his readers with him on the long journey through the most characteristic parts of the South American continent and in a fascinating style calls attention to the points of interest on the way. Among the striking features of the book are the pictures of the life and work among the peoples of the various countries.

The Geographical and Geological Commission of the State of São Paulo, at the head of which is Dr. ORVILLE A. DERBY, has just published the first sheet of a topographical map of that State. The sheet is on the scale of 1:100,000 and embraces the region between the cities of São Paulo and Santos, in south latitude.

Besides being the first map of this commission, it is the first detailed map of the region traversed by the *serra do mar* and shows the topographical relations between the coast, the mountain range, and plateau of São Paulo. In accordance with the system adopted by the best geographers, the map is printed in three colors, the rivers and ocean being blue, the topographical features brown, and the nomenclature black. Dr. DERBY has had the assistance of skilled topographers. Mr. H. E. WILLIAMS, the chief topographer, had acquired a splendid reputation in works of this kind before going to Brazil.

“Patent Laws and Trade-Marks of the Leading Countries of the World,” prepared by the compiling department of the Bureau of Information of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum (Philadelphia, 1899), is a most useful publication for inventors and others interested in foreign patents. It contains the principal features of the patent laws of the following countries: Argentine Republic, Australia, Austria, Bel-

gium, Brazil, Canada, Cape Colony, China, Chile, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Natal, Norway, Orange Free State, Russia, Rhodesia, South African Republic (Transvaal), Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America.

The volume for 1900 of the "Record of American and Foreign Shipping," which is the thirty-second annual issue of this valuable register and classification of shipping, is now being delivered to subscribers. The "Record" contains full reports and particulars of about 17,000 vessels of all classes and nationalities; rules for the construction and classification of steel, iron, and wooden vessels; rules for the construction and survey of steam machinery and boilers for vessels; provisions for the installation of electric lighting power apparatus on shipboard, and much other valuable information of special importance to underwriters and all firms or persons interested in shipping.

The Kansas State Board of Agriculture has just issued its annual report, which is devoted largely to the interests of those who breed live stock. The volume is profusely illustrated and contains a great deal of information on a subject that should interest the commercial world. In some quarters it is becoming fashionable to decry the horse and yet in this comparatively new Western State, that animal is being bred at a profit. In fact, horses are worth more to-day than for many years past, the foreign demand being really beyond the supply.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received a report on the Republic of Nicaragua, written in the French language, by Mr. HENRY JALHAY, the distinguished Consul of the Republic of Honduras at Brussels, to whom it is already indebted for much useful and interesting information which has appeared at different times in the MONTHLY BULLETIN. This report, which treats of the history, geography, and statistics of the Republic, abounds in useful and valuable data concerning Nicaragua, which is presented in a very interesting and readable form.

The following are among the newspapers and periodicals recently making their initial appearance in Latin-America:

On January 1, a new daily newspaper made its appearance in Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, under the name of "El Pais."

"El Comercio" is the name of a new journal which Don I. RIVERA has commenced to publish in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

The city of Mazatenango, Mexico, has a new monthly publication called "El Mensajero."

"El Cometa" is the title of a new paper published in Santa Ana, Salvador.

"La Estrella de Panamá" (The Panama Star) states that M. JULES MOREAU has just demonstrated in a clear and evident manner that the

name of America was that applied by the natives to the mountains in Nicaragua. COLUMBUS found the word in use and employed it in the last report he sent the King Don FERNANDO DE ARAGÓN. Later, when the Spanish discoveries were noised throughout Europe, a bookseller, who imagined that the word America came from the baptismal name of AMERICO VESPUCCIO, accredited this origin, which has come down to our days.

The Philadelphia Commercial Museum published on May 26, 1899, a scientific bulletin entitled "Contributions to the Herpetology of New Granada and Argentina with Descriptions of New Forms," by EDWARD D. COPE. It is a posthumous paper edited by J. PERCY MOORE. The collection which furnished the basis of the investigation was made in Colombia near Bogotá for the World's Exposition at Chicago, where it was exhibited in the Department of New Granada.

The Government of Nicaragua has accepted the work of Dr. BELISARIO PORRAS (*Geografía de Nicaragua*) to which reference was made in the December Bulletin, page 847, as authority concerning the geography of the Republic. A premium of \$500 has been awarded the author and 4,000 copies of his book have been ordered printed in Europe, of which 1,000 copies will be tendered Dr. PORRAS.

The order of the ten leading universities of the United States, according to student population, as registered November 1, 1899, and tabulated in the "Harvard Graduates' Magazine," is: Harvard, 5,250; Michigan, 3,346; Pennsylvania, 3,346; Columbia, 3,083; Yale, 2,688; Cornell, 2,645; Wisconsin, 2,025; Chicago, 1,680; Princeton, 1,194, and Johns Hopkins, 632.

Mr. WALTER WELLMAN contributes an illustrated article on his recent polar journey to the December number of the "National Geographic Magazine." HENRY GANNETT describes the HARRIMAN Alaska expedition. A good map of the seat of war in South Africa accompanies this number.

An article by Mr. N. P. CHAPMAN on "Territorial Expansion" appears in the December number of the "Overland Monthly." Other articles of timely interest are "The Artist in Monterey," by H. L. A. CULMER, and "The Naval Training Station at San Francisco," by Lieutenant ANDREWS, U. S. N.

"The History of Trade between the United Kingdom and the United States," by Mr. SYDNEY J. CHAPMAN, of London, is an instructive and interesting book imported by the SCRIBNERS. It is written with special reference to the effects of tariffs on the trade between the two countries.

The publishing house of BALLESCA & Co. has just placed on sale a new publication entitled, "Mexico and its Social Evolution," the collaboration of several people. In this work, the evolution of Mexico is studied in all its forms and by authors well acquainted with the subject, thus, for instance, the part relating to the development of the army is written by General BERNARDO REYES. The book is profusely illustrated, and is destined to figure prominently among those written about this country.

Messrs. PAGE & Co., of Boston, have published a work by Mr. JAMES RODWAY, entitled "In Guiana Wilds." His adventures in this little-known part of the world afford the author a capital vehicle for the introduction of many interesting facts about the Guianas. He has had an intimate personal knowledge of the weird customs of the native races there. The work is of ethnological value.

The "Board of Trade Journal," of Great Britain, now in its fourteenth year, will hereafter be issued weekly instead of monthly as heretofore. For the present the price will be 1 penny per number, the price of the monthly issue was a sixpence. The first number of the weekly edition appeared on January 4, 1900.

For the purpose of interesting foreign capitalists in the natural resources of Bolivia, the publication of a new periodical, "La Revista Económica y Financiera," was begun in October, 1899. This appears to be a very promising and useful newspaper, published in the Spanish language.

Mr. W. ANDERSON SMITH, formerly a special commissioner of Great Britain to the Chilean Government to report on the rivers of that country, has written a work entitled, "Temperate Chile; a Progressive Spain." Messrs. A. C. BLACK & Co. are the publishers.

"Harper's Weekly" for December 9, 1899, contains a page illustration showing the model warships of the United States Navy which will be exhibited at the Paris Exposition. There are twenty-five of these models, including the best of every type of vessel now in active use in the Navy.

An illustrated work by Mr. MATIAS ZURBRIGGEN appeared in London, England, during the closing days of 1899. The book bears the title of "From the Alps to the Andes," and is a comparison as well as a contrast between the two great mountain ranges.

Senhor VALENTIN MAGALHAES is preparing for a publishing house in Paris a collection of poems. This book is to be the first volume of a series of Portuguese works specially prepared for circulation in Brazil.

## ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY DURING DECEMBER, 1899.

### BY GIFT.

- Carpenter, Frank G. Geographical reader of North America. New York, Amer. Book Co., 1899.
- Carpenter, Frank G. South America. New York, Amer. Book Co., 1899.
- Lecciones de lenguaje Español-Inglés. 1899. Amer. Book Co., 1889.
- Libro primero de lectura. 1898. Amer. Book Co., 1899.
- Libro segundo. 1899. Amer. Book Co., 1899.
- Libro tercero. 1899. Amer. Book Co., 1899.
- Libro primero de lectura de Appleton. Amer. Book Co., 1899.
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# BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

## OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

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VOL. VIII.

ENERO, 1900.

No. 1.

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### EXPORTACIONES DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS Á EUROPA.

Después de los prósperos años de 1897 y 1898, el progreso de los Estados Unidos continuó desarrollándose en mayores proporciones en 1899.

Tres clases de industrias son las que quizá dan mejor idea de la prosperidad nacional, á saber: la de hierro y acero, la de leucería y la de joyas. Á juzgar por lo que ellas fueron en 1899, jamás había este país alcanzado como en ese año progresos tan notables.

Hace pocos años los Estados Unidos no podían proveer á sus mismas necesidades en cuanto á artículos manufacturados, y las exportaciones de éstos eran insignificantes, comparativamente hablando. El notable aumento que se ha verificado en la exportación de manufacturas americanas á otros países, especialmente los de Europa, es motivo suficiente para que el BOLETÍN MENSUAL llame la atención de las repúblicas que forman parte de la Unión Internacional á los recursos de los Estados Unidos y al hecho de que los productos de sus fábricas han invadido los mercados europeos. Las exportaciones totales de los Estados Unidos durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, tuvieron un valor de \$1,204,123,134, de cuya cantidad los artículos manufacturados representaron \$338,667,794. Lo que se exportó á Europa fué valorado en \$936,781,169. El valor total de las manufacturas exportadas desde el principio de 1889 hasta fines de 1898 aumentó durante la década 110 por ciento, y es éste el único país donde se ha visto un desarrollo semejante.

La exportación de manufacturas en 1899 fué como tres veces mayor que en 1879. Los metales, principalmente el hierro y el acero, han

ocupado el primer lugar en la exportación. En 1880 la exportación de estos artículos representó un valor de \$14,716,524, y en 1899 de \$93,715,951. Por otra parte las importaciones de efectos de hierro y acero fueron en 1880 por valor de \$71,266,699, mientras que en 1899 solamente ascendieron á \$12,098,239. El valor de los rieles exportados en 1889 fué de \$235,387, y en 1899 se elevó á \$5,298,125. La exportación de instrumentos agrícolas en 1899 fué por valor de \$12,432,197, de cuya cantidad Europa tomó \$7,442,654. La exportación de ferretería para constructores, sierras y herramientas fué en 1889 por valor de \$1,700,390, y en 1899 subió á \$7,842,372. De esta cantidad los países europeos tomaron \$3,747,974. El valor total de las máquinas de coser exportadas en 1889 fué de \$2,247,875, y de esta cantidad los países europeos tomaron por valor de \$1,179,705. La exportación de este mismo artículo en 1899 ascendió á \$3,264,344, de cuya suma Europa pagó \$1,908,732.

El valor de las máquinas de escribir enviadas al extranjero en 1899 fué de \$2,449,205, y el de las bicicletas de \$5,753,880. Estas dos industrias se han desarrollado de una manera fenomenal durante los últimos diez años. La exportación de bicicletas en 1899 excedió en valor á la de carros de ferrocarril y carruajes. El aumento en la exportación de instrumentos y aparatos científicos en 1899 fué considerable, pues representó un valor de \$4,399,180, mientras que hasta el año de 1899 dicha exportación jamás había ascendido á \$1,000,000. De la cantidad exportada en el año pasado Europa tomó \$2,090,620.

La exportación de artículos de cobre aumentó mucho en 1899, pues subió á \$34,476,343, habiendo tomado de esta cantidad los países europeos \$34,269,822.

La exportación de relojes de pared, de mesa y de bolsillo también ha venido aumentado gradualmente, y fué en 1899 por valor de \$1,863,431.

Es muy satisfactorio el aumento en la exportación de géneros de algodón. In 1889 se exportaron 118,453,191 yardas; en 1898 la cantidad fué de 270,507,811 yardas, y en 1899 subió á 412,004,055 yardas, con un valor estas últimas de \$18,969,897. De esta suma la Gran Bretaña tomó por valor de \$628,445 y los otros países europeos por valor de \$931,448, ó sea un total de \$1,559,893. La China tomó más de la mitad de los géneros de algodón que se exportaron en 1899.

La exportación de suela en 1899 ascendió á 37,120,912 libras, valoradas en \$6,280,904. El valor de todos los otros artículos de cuero exportados fué de \$13,444,569, y de esta cantidad Europa tomó \$12,195,045.

El calzado de los Estados Unidos goza de buena reputación en todos partes del mundo. La exportación de este artículo en 1889 tuvo un valor de \$585,902, y en 1899 de \$2,711,385. La cantidad que fué á Europa el año pasado representó un valor de \$703,965.

La exportación de muebles en 1899 fué por valor de \$3,571,375, de cuya cantidad la Europa tomó \$1,563,526.

La exportación de pertrechos navales en 1899 fué por valor de \$9,982,955, y de esta suma los países europeos tomaron \$8,597,253.

La exportación de productos químicos de los Estados Unidos ascendió en 1899 á \$10,995,289.

Casi las dos terceras partes del aceite para alumbrado que se exportó en 1899 fueron á Europa. La cantidad total exportada fué de 805,956,345 galones. El valor de este aceite por galón fué mucho menor que lo era hace diez años, pero el valor total de la exportación, que en 1889 fué de \$39,286,333, ascendió en 1899 á \$50,200,518. La exportación de parafina ha aumentado notablemente durante los últimos diez años. La cantidad exportada en 1899, que casi toda fué á Europa, representó un valor de \$6,804,684. En 1889 fué solamente por valor de \$2,629,602.

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## LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS—REVISTA DEL AÑO DE 1899.

Fenomenal ha sido el progreso de los Estados Unidos durante 1899. Su comercio exterior se desarrolló de una manera prodigiosa, é increíble parece que las exportaciones en dicho año excedieron en más de un billon de *dollars* á las importaciones y exportaciones combinadas en 1870. La importación por cabeza fué 20 por ciento menos que en 1870, mientras que la exportación fué 58 por ciento más que en aquel año. La exportación de productos agrícolas ascendió á la enorme suma de \$784,776,142, y la de artículos manufacturados se elevó á \$339,592,146.

La condición del erario es altamente satisfactoria, pues, según los datos suministrados en su informe por el Secretario de Hacienda, habrá en el presente año económico un superávit de \$40,000,000. En su último mensaje al Congreso de los Estados Unidos, el Señor Presidente MCKINLEY, al referirse á la situación económica de la nación, se expresa así:

“El estado satisfactorio de la Tesorería se demuestra con el hecho de que el 1º de diciembre de 1899 el balance en caja disponible era de \$278,004,837.72, de los cuales \$239,744,905.36 estaban en oro acuñado y en barras. La confianza que reina por todo el país ha hecho más general el uso del oro, y los derechos de aduana se pagan ahora casi exclusivamente en ese metal.”

Rara vez se han realizado como en 1899 las predicciones y esperanzas relativas á la prosperidad y engrandecimiento de la nación. Ésta es la conclusión á que necesariamente se llega cuando se examina la inmensidad del tráfico y de los negocios en general durante los doce meses que acaban de pasar. La elevación en el precio de los principales productos, así como en toda clase de valores, ha sido tan enorme que difícilmente se pudo haber previsto. Otro hecho notabilísimo es el aumento en los salarios que se pagan á los trabajadores en las fábricas, al mismo

tiempo que, al terminarse el año anterior, los manufactureros de todo el país se encontraban con pedidos que alcanzan hasta seis meses en lo futuro. Si se toman como muestra del inmenso tráfico de los Estados Unidos durante 1899 las liquidaciones de los bancos, se verá que arrojan la portentosa suma de \$93,300,000,000, ó sea un aumento de 36 por ciento sobre el año de 1898.

En vista de la prosperidad general durante el año de 1899, se comprende que las quiebras hayan sido mucho menores que en otros años, y, según la acreditada revista económica y mercantil "Bradstreet," alcanzaron á cosa de 9,550 solamente, que es un total 17 por ciento menor que el del año de 1898.

El tráfico entre los Estados Unidos y las repúblicas latino-americanas aumentó notablemente en 1899, y aunque todavía no ha alcanzado el grado de desarrollo á que está destinado, es evidente que su tendencia es á aumentar más y más cada día. Numerosos artefactos de fabricación americana que antes eran casi desconocidos en los mercados de la América Central y del Sur, rivalizan ahora ventajosamente con los productos europeos de la misma clase. Dignos de mencionarse, entre otros, son los efectos de cuero, que antes se importaban en aquellos países casi exclusivamente de Europa, y que hoy van en gran parte de los Estados Unidos. El calzado americano goza de gran reputación en la América latina, y en varias partes ha desalojado por completo al francés, que por muchos años ocupó el primer lugar.

El desarrollo á que ha llegado esta industria en los Estados Unidos se debe á que este artículo se fabrica aquí con más perfección que en otros países y á los mismos precios. Hoy por hoy los Estados Unidos no importan calzado de ninguna parte, y en cambio lo exportan á la Gran Bretaña, Francia, Alemania, el Canadá, la América Central y del Sur, Australia y otros lugares. Según los datos suministrados por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda, la exportación de calzado en los diez meses que terminaron en abril del año próximo pasado subió á \$2,049,047. En el mismo período del año anterior había sido solamente por valor de \$1,439,512.

La exportación de toda clase de maquinaria de los Estados Unidos á los países que quedan al sur hizo grandes progresos en el año pasado, y ya se reconoce por doquiera el hecho de que las máquinas que se fabrican en los Estados Unidos para toda clase de industrias son, bajo todos conceptos, las mejores del mundo.

Los géneros de algodón americanos han sido conocidos por muchos años en todos los mercados de este continente, y la exportación de esos artículos tuvo considerable incremento en 1899. No existe razón alguna para que no tomen el lugar de los europeos, siendo, como son, superiores á éstos en todo sentido. La industria de seda se desarrolló considerablemente durante el año anterior. En enero de 1899 había fábricas de telas de seda en 28 de los Estados de la Unión, y el número total de aquéllas era de 861.



En 1899 los Estados Unidos celebraron tratados de reciprocidad comercial con la Gran Bretaña, en representación de varias de sus colonias en el mar Caribe, con la República Argentina, con Francia y con Nicaragua.

Uno de los mayores obstáculos que hasta últimamente se han presentado al crecimiento del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y los países latino-americanos, ha sido la falta de comunicaciones marítimas, y al referirse á este punto, el Señor Presidente MCKINLEY dice, en su ya citado mensaje, lo que sigue:

“La importancia de nuestra marina mercante, como un medio de dar incremento á nuestro tráfico y de fortalecer nuestra condición de potencia marítima, debe llamar la inmediata atención del Congreso. Nuestro desarrollo nacional no será enteramente satisfactorio mientras nuestras industrias no se vean acompañadas de un progreso equivalente en nuestra tráfico marítimo.”

Todo el mundo comprende ya la necesidad de establecer mejores comunicaciones por vapor entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina. Como un ejemplo, puede mencionarse la reunión del Club de Manufactureros de Filadelfia, que se verificó el 15 de noviembre próximo pasado, con el fin de tratar del establecimiento de una línea de vapores entre aquel puerto y Río Janeiro. El Capitán CORDEIRA DE GRACA, Representante del Brasil en el Congreso Comercial Internacional, pronunció un discurso en favor del proyecto, y, entre otras cosas, dijo lo siguiente: “vuestra exportación no es menos importante que vuestra importación, y no habéis fomentado aquélla en vuestros negocios con el Brasil, aunque sólo se necesita echar una ojeada para comprender que grandes cantidades de vuestros productos podrían ser enviadas al Brasil si hubiera embarcaciones para conducirlos y existiera un sistema mejor de cambio internacional. El Brasil puede consumir grandes cantidades de vuestros productos, y entre ellos mencionaré la harina, los aceites minerales, el hierro, el acero, el carbón, los artículos de lencería, maquinaria y artefactos en general.”

El desarrollo en las construcciones navales en el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, según se ve por el informe del Comisionado de la Navegación, fué verdaderamente extraordinario. En la fecha mencionada se estaban construyendo en los astilleros de los Estados Unidos, tanto para este país como para naciones extranjeras, más de 50 buques de guerra valorados en algo más de \$40,000,000, sin contar blindaje y armamento. En cuanto á los barcos mercantes había en construcción más de 200, cuyo valor en conjunto pasa de \$30,000,000. Entre los buques mercantes cuya construcción fué resuelta en 1899, figuran tres de los mayores del mundo, y son los siguientes: el vapor *California* para la compañía de navegación conocida con el nombre de “American-Hawaiian,” que medirá 450 pies de eslora, 51 pies de manga y 12,000 toneladas de desplazamiento. Los otros dos van á formar parte de la flota de la “Pacific Mail Steamship Company,” y tendrán 18,500 toneladas de desplazamiento.

Los intereses ferrocarrileros de los Estados Unidos se mantuvieron en 1899 á la altura del progreso general de la nación. Desde 1890 no se había visto una actividad igual en materia de vías férreas, pues la construcción de éstas fué 50 por ciento mayor que en 1898, en cuyo año los ferrocarriles cubrían 186,396.32 millas, ó sea una extensión mucho mayor que la que tienen todas las vías férreas combinadas de Inglaterra, Francia, Alemania y Rusia. Ninguna nación del mundo ha adelantado tanto como los Estados Unidos en lo relativo á la construcción de locomotoras, rieles y material de ferrocarril en general. En el año pasado se exportaron artículos de esta clase en cantidades considerables á muchos países, incluyendo Inglaterra y sus colonias. Nada puede haber de más significativo que el hecho de haberse pedido 60 locomotoras americanas para dos de los primeros ferrocarriles ingleses, el "Midland" y el "Great Western."

En manufacturas de hierro y acero los Estados Unidos marchan al frente de las otras naciones, y hoy se exportan á todos los países del mundo los productos de las fundiciones americanas.

En todo lo concerniente á la electricidad este país avanzó muchísimo en 1899, y su exportación de efectos eléctricos aumentó de una manera sorprendente.

En ningún país se desarrolló en el año pasado la producción de carbón de piedra como en los Estados Unidos, y no es de dudar que antes de mucho tiempo dejarán atrás á Inglaterra, que ha sido y continúa siendo la primera nación productora de este importante artículo de comercio. Se ha calculado que la producción de dicho combustible en la Gran Bretaña ascendió en 1899 á cosa de 220,000,000 de toneladas, y en los Estados Unidos como á 208,000,000.

La producción de oro y plata en los Estados Unidos el año pasado fué notable. El primero de los dos metales representó un valor de \$70,694,170, y el segundo de \$74,424,784. En cuanto al cobre, la cantidad producida durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, ascendió, según datos obtenidos por el periódico "New York Metal Exchange," á 278,850,880 libras.

La exposición de productos y manufacturas adaptables á la exportación, que se verificó en la ciudad de Filadelfia del 14 de setiembre al 1º de diciembre de 1899, fué sumamente interesante, y con razón se cree que contribuirá á desarrollar el tráfico entre los Estados Unidos y las repúblicas hermanas del continente. Al mismo tiempo que la exposición se celebró la reunión de un Congreso Comercial Internacional, cuyo objeto fué promover el comercio internacional. Gran interés manifestaron todas las naciones de América en dicho Congreso, y no es de dudar que dará los resultados más satisfactorios y que corresponderá á las esperanzas de sus promotores.

El desarrollo industrial de la nación durante el año pasado ha corrido parejas con el progreso agrícola. El Departamento de Agricultura ha venido extendiendo su esfera de acción más y más cada día, y en 1899

se introdujeron innovaciones en que antes no se había pensado. Se espera que pronto se podrán cultivar en las nuevas posesiones insulares de la república numerosas plantas tropicales, entre otras las que producen la goma elástica. Con la adquisición de las Filipinas y Puerto Rico es evidente que los Estados Unidos verán de hoy en adelante producirse dentro de sus límites jurisdiccionales muchos de los artículos que hasta hoy han tenido que importar de los países situados en la zona tórrida.

La inmigración en los Estados Unidos durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, fué mayor que en cualquiera de los años anteriores, contando desde 1896, pues llegaron al país, según datos oficiales, 311,715 inmigrantes.

El primer año de la dominación de los Estados Unidos en las islas de Hawai fué muy próspero, según se ve por la comparacion de los ingresos y egresos del Gobierno, así como por lo que produjeron las aduanas durante los últimos seis meses del año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899.

Un acontecimiento tristísimo vino á conmover á la nación al terminar el año de 1899, la muerte del Vicepresidente de los Estados Unidos, Mr. GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART. Hombre de espíritu levantado, de verdadero patriotismo y de gran experiencia en los negocios públicos, desempeñó el alto cargo á que fué llamado por sus conciudadanos con dignidad, inteligencia y tacto. Como Presidente del Senado supo ganarse el respeto y aprecio de todos los miembros de aquel alto cuerpo, sin distinción de colores políticos. La muerte de este eminente hombre de estado causó profundo impresión de un extremo á otro del país, como lo expresa el Presidente McKINLEY en la proclama que con ese motivo dirigió al pueblo de los Estados Unidos.

El año de 1899 ha presenciado la gran expansión territorial de la república, en cuyos dominios, como en el imperio español del siglo XVI, nunca se pone el sol. Al amparo de su bandera se dan los productos de todas las zonas, y cerca de cien millones de seres humanos viven bajo la protección de sus leyes. Nada ofrece la antigua ó la moderna historia que pueda compararse al maravilloso desarrollo de los Estados Unidos, que hace cien años eran apenas una potencia de tercer orden y que son hoy una de las más ricas, prósperas y poderosas naciones del globo. Lo que serán al terminar el siglo que comienza no alcanza la imaginación á concebirlo. Bien se comprende que el primer Magistrado de la república haya puesto fin á su mensaje con estas palabras:

“Nunca, como en el último año, había tenido esta nación tantos motivos de gratitud hacia la Providencia por las numerosas mercedes y favores que le ha acordado, y ante los cuales nos inclinamos reverentes.”

## EL DR. DON MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU.

En la última reunión de la Comisión Ejecutiva de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, el acta de la cual fué publicada en el BOLETÍN MENSUAL de diciembre, el Dr. Don MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de la República Argentina, se despidió de sus colegas y manifestó que partiría para su patria casi inmediatamente. El Señor MÉROU había representado á su país en Wáshington desde el 26 de junio de 1896, fecha en que fué recibido por el Presidente CLEVELAND, y mostró ser tan hábil diplomático como cumplido caballero. Su regreso á la República Argentina es con el objeto de aceptar, á solicitud del Presidente ROCA, el puesto de Ministro de Agricultura, que ya una vez había rehusado.

Aunque es todavía joven, pues tiene apenas 39 años de edad, el Dr. GARCÍA MÉROU ha hecho una brillante carrera política. Entró al servicio diplomático de su país en 1880, y en 1881 fué nombrado segundo secretario del Dr. MIGUEL CANE, que fué enviado con una misión especial ante el congreso que se reunió en Panamá. Á continuación fué secretario de las legaciones argentinas en Colombia y en Venezuela. En 1883 fué nombrado secretario de la legación en Madrid, y en 1885 fué trasladado á la de París. En 1886 dejó este último puesto y regresó á la República Argentina, donde se dedicó al periodismo como profesión. Poco después de su regreso fué nombrado secretario privado del Presidente ROCA, y al terminar la administración de este último en 1888, el Dr. GARCÍA MÉROU volvió á entrar al servicio diplomático y fué enviado al Paraguay con el carácter de ministro residente. En aquella época tenía solo 26 años de edad, y es de notar el hecho de que era la persona más joven nombrada por su Gobierno para desempeñar un cargo de tanta responsabilidad.

En 1891 fué trasladado al Perú como ministro plenipotenciario. Á su llegada á Lima fué recibido con entusiasmo por los estudiantes de la Universidad y nombrado Miembro Honorario del Ateneo. El discurso que pronunció en aquella ocasión llamó la atención en todas las capitales de la América del Sur. En 1894 fué trasladado al Brasil, donde se distinguió mucho. Sus esfuerzos para desarrollar el comercio entre este último país y la República Argentina fueron coronados de gran éxito, y antes de su partida de Río Janeiro gozaba de gran reputación como hombre íntegro y enérgico, habiendo sido objeto de muchos elogios por parte de la prensa. Cuando su sucesor fué recibido, el Presidente del Brasil habló en altos términos del Dr. GARCÍA MÉROU. El Instituto Histórico y Geográfico del Brasil, fundado en 1832, nombró miembro honorario al Dr. GARCÍA MÉROU. Este Instituto es uno de los más notables centros intelectuales de la América del Sur, y solamente otros dos ciudadanos, ambos ex-Presidentes de la República Argentina, han recibido tan señalada distinción.

El Ministerio de Agricultura ha sido creado últimamente en la República Argentina, y se dice que esto se debe á indicaciones del Honorable WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, ex-Ministro de los Estados Unidos en aquel país. Mr. BUCHANAN conocía por experiencia la importancia de un departamento de esta clase. El Dr. FRERE, que fué el primero que desempeñó el cargo de Ministro de Agricultura en la República Argentina, hizo mucho para justificar la creación de dicho ministerio. La elección del Dr. GARCÍA MÉROU para ese puesto parece indicar que el Presidente ROCA desea extender la esfera de acción de ese departamento.

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## EL FERROCARRIL DE LAS TRES AMÉRICAS.

Uno de los artículos más interesantes publicados en la revista titulada "Conservative Magazine," en el número correspondiente al mes de noviembre de 1899, es el que lleva este lema: "El Ferrocarril de las Tres Américas," obra de Mr. FREDERIC EMORY, ex-Director de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas. Mr. EMORY ha dedicado mucha atención al estudio de asuntos comerciales de carácter internacional, en su calidad de Jefe de la Oficina de Comercio Exterior del Departamento de Estado. Mr. EMORY trata el asunto desde su origen y, entre otras cosas, dice lo siguiente:

"Nadie puede poner en duda el sincero interés que los Estados Unidos tienen en el mantenimiento de la paz y en la prosperidad de los países del Sur. Ésta no es solamente una cuestión de sentimiento, debida al hecho de que aquellos países, como el nuestro y siguiendo nuestro ejemplo, se revelaron contra el dominio despótico de un poder europeo y adoptaron una forma de gobierno parecida á la nuestra, sino que tiene un fundamento práctico en la circunstancia de que las repúblicas latino-americanas presentan vasto campo á la inversión de capitales de los Estados Unidos.

"La condición de nuestras relaciones comerciales con los países de la América latina es el medio más adecuado para apreciar hasta dónde dichos países darían su apoyo á una gran empresa internacional que necesitase la cooperación de todos.

\* \* \* \* \*

"El gran obstáculo al progreso de casi todos los países latino-americanos es la falta de buenas comunicaciones entre ellos.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Desde el punto de vista industrial no debemos temer la rivalidad de ningún país en la lucha para dominar en lo futuro los mercados de la América latina.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Nuestro interés en el ferrocarril de las tres Américas, si no es tan directo é inmediato como sostienen algunos de los entusiastas amigos del proyecto, tampoco es tan remoto como pretenden sus opositores.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Si la construcción del ferrocarril fuera acompañada del establecimiento de buenas líneas de navegación á vapor entre los Estados Unidos y los países latino-americanos, es muy probable que, mediante tratados favorables de reciprocidad, se establecería un tráfico activo con toda la América latina.

\* \* \* \* \*

“La actitud de los pueblos latino americanos hacia nosotros es naturalmente un factor de primera importancia en la solución del problema.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Me atrevo á expresar la opinión de que entre los hombres inteligentes de la América latina no existe más que un sentimiento hacia nosotros, el de amistad sincera.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Algunos quizá abrigan temores más ó menos vagos relativos á la influencia que podríamos ejercer en sus negocios políticos, y es de sentir que dichos temores encuentren alguna justificación en cierto aire de protección que asumen á veces nuestros mal informados periodistas y oradores.”

Notable es el trabajo de Mr. EMORY, y merece ser considerado como uno de los más importantes que sobre asuntos internacionales se han publicado últimamente en los Estados Unidos.

## DIAGRAMAS EN QUE SE MUESTRA EL MOVIMIENTO COMERCIAL DE LA AMÉRICA.

Los diagramas que se publican en este número del BOLETÍN MENSUAL muestran el desarrollo del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y México, la América Central y del Sur y las Antillas, y en ellos se expone año por año, durante la década, el movimiento de los principales artículos introducidos en el tráfico entre la América del Norte y la del Sur, permitiendo al mismo tiempo que se observe de un golpe de vista la marcha ascendente y descendente de dicho comercio. Estos diagramas fueron preparados por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda, y reconocen por base las tablas compiladas con datos tomados de una obra que lleva por título “El Comercio Americano,” y que fué publicada en junio de 1899 por la misma Oficina, con el objeto de distribuirla entre el público. El referido volumen contiene detalles minuciosos sobre el comercio de cada uno de los países de la América del Sur y Central, de México y de las Antillas, durante un número de años, así como sobre el tráfico entre los referidos países y los Estados Unidos desde los primeros años del siglo, siendo, por tanto, una colección de informes útiles para las personas interesadas en esta clase de asuntos.

## EL CULTIVO DEL ARROZ EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos ha publicado un interesante é instructivo opúsculo con este título: "The Present Status of Rice Culture in the United States" (Estado Actual del Cultivo del Arroz en los Estados Unidos). El trabajo fué preparado por el Dr. S. A. KNAPP, á quien el Secretario de Agricultura comisionó en 1898 para que visitara el Japón, examinara las clases de dicho grano que en aquel país se producen y comprara una cantidad de la que se adaptase mejor á las condiciones y necesidades de los Estados Unidos.

En la introducción de su informe el Dr. KNAPP dice que el arroz es el principal artículo de alimentación para la mitad de los habitantes de la tierra. Los países que lo consumen en mayor escala son la China, las colonias inglesas en Asia y el Japón. El cultivo del arroz es de la más remota antigüedad y su historia se pierde en la noche de los tiempos. Las diferentes clases de arroz que se conocen son muy numerosas y se distinguen unas de otras no solamente en cuanto al tamaño, la figura y el color del grano, sino también en cuanto á la proporción de substancias nutritivas que contienen.

Según el Dr. KNAPP, ya en 1647 se cultivaba el arroz en el Estado de Virginia. La producción está limitada actualmente á los Estados del Sur hacia el Atlántico y á los del Golfo. En 1896 Louisiana produjo 127,600,000 libras de arroz; la Carolina del Norte y la Carolina del Sur 27,901,440, y Georgia 10,464,000. La producción de arroz en los Estados Unidos es menor que el consumo. Desde 1892 hasta 1896, inclusive, se produjeron 898,563,900 libras, y durante ese periodo se importaron 794,563,900. Asegura el Dr. KNAPP que el arroz ha menester de un clima húmedo para su perfecto desarrollo y que las mejores tierras son aquéllas que se pueden desaguar durante la cosecha á fin de emplear, al recoger ésta, la maquinaria más moderna. Se calcula que en los cinco Estados que quedan sobre el Golfo hay una extensión de 10,000,000 de acres muy adaptables al cultivo del arroz. La que se podría regar, valiéndose de los métodos actualmente en uso, cubre unos 3,000,000 de acres.

Opina el Dr. KNAPP que el consumo de arroz y sus productos va en aumento en los Estados Unidos, y que este país podría producir una cantidad casi seis veces mayor que la que consume. Á su juicio, el cultivo del arroz en los Estados Unidos promete mucho para lo futuro, y no encuentra razón para que este país no llegue un día á exportar cantidades de dicho grano. Dedicar una parte considerable de su opúsculo á los métodos de cultivo que se emplean, á las variedades de arroz que se producen, á los terrenos que mejor se adaptan á ese cultivo, á los obstáculos que éste suele presentar, al sistema de riego y de drenaje y á otros puntos importantes relacionados con esta industria.

Al hablar de la cosecha, dice el Dr. KNAPP que tan luego está lista se debe proceder á su recolección sin pérdida de tiempo, y da una descripción minuciosa de la manera de descascarar y preparar el grano. Al tratar del arroz como artículo de alimentación, el Dr. KNAPP dice que es nutritivo y digerible, y que en los países que lo producen se usa en vez de patatas y de pan. El Dr. KNAPP habla también de los productos del arroz, y recomienda la caña para forraje. Termina su interesante informe con una relación algo extensa acerca del cultivo del arroz en las islas de Hawai, las Filipinas, el Japón, la India, la China y otros países. Su trabajo prueba que ha hecho un estudio profundo de la cuestión, y debería ser leído por cuantos se interesan en el cultivo de este valioso grano.

## FABRICACIÓN DE GUANTES EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Francia, que siempre había sido considerada como el centro de la industria de guantes, ha descubierto, según se dice en un artículo publicado en el "Bulletin Mensuel de la Chambre de Commerce Française de New York," que cuenta con un rival formidable en los Estados Unidos.

La fabricación de guantes continúa haciendo grandes progresos en este país, y en la actualidad las fábricas no pueden llenar los pedidos que reciben. Solamente han podido satisfacer el 80 por ciento de los que debían haber sido entregados en julio, agosto y septiembre, y todavía están trabajando para llenarlos. Parece que hacen falta mujeres en las fábricas, principalmente ribeteadoras con máquina.

Entre las varias clases de guantes que se hacen en los Estados Unidos, la que tiene más demanda por ahora es la conocida con el nombre de "mocha." Los americanos tienen un secreto para la preparación de estas pieles que hasta hoy los europeos no han podido descubrir. Estos últimos no poseen un artículo tan delgado, suave y flexible. Muchos fabricantes ingleses y franceses compran dichas pieles, ya preparadas y coloradas, en los mercados de América, y éstas vuelven transformadas en guantes elegantemente acabados. En cuanto á esto último, dice el artículo en referencia, los franceses tienen todavía la superioridad sobre los americanos.

El precio de la piel de "mocha" sin curtir es más elevado en este momento que jamás lo había sido. Estas pieles se venden inmediatamente al precio de 74 y 75 centavos cada una, lo cual es un aumento de 100 por ciento sobre los precios de 1898, que variaron de 34 á 40 centavos. Ya se han hecho numerosos pedidos de guantes de "mocha" para el otoño de 1900. Es probable que la alza en el precio continúe, y no nos sorprendería que pronto estas pieles se estuviesen vendiendo á 90 centavos y hasta 1 *dollar* cada una, cosa que jamás se había visto.



Es preciso decir que la producción de “mocha” se limita á un millón de pieles aproximadamente, y que, á pesar de la creciente demanda, es casi imposible aumentar aquélla. Por otra parte, los franceses, ingleses y alemanes, que desde hace dos años están haciendo ensayos con este artículo, toman una cuarta parte de la producción que antes era destinada exclusivamente á los Estados Unidos.

Se observa que desde hace algún tiempo se están usando otra vez los guantes de piel de Suecia, y los informes obtenidos de todos los principales importadores confirman el hecho de que la demanda se hace general, demanda que era muy insignificante hace tres ó cuatro años. Esto puede explicarse por la escasez de la piel de “mocha,” pues la de Suecia es la que se le parece más.

## LA CONQUISTA DEL MUNDO POR LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

### ESPLÉNDIDOS TRIUNFOS COMERCIALES DE UN PUEBLO LIBRE Y PROGRESIVO.

[Del “St. Louis Globe-Democrat.”]

La “conquista del mundo por los Estados Unidos,” sobre la cual un publicista francés bien conocido ha escrito últimamente en un periódico de París, parece ser un asunto del más vivo interés en Europa á la hora presente. Hace poco más de un año que el Conde GOLUCHOWSKI, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Austria, dió en Europa la voz de alarma contra la introducción en aquellos mercados de productos americanos. En opinión de aquel estadista, las naciones del Viejo Mundo deben formar una alianza comercial contra los Estados Unidos, si quieren conservar algunos mercados extranjeros para su exceso de producción. Los Estados Unidos, dijo en substancia, están invadiendo todos los países que hasta hoy se habían considerado, comercialmente hablando, tributarios de Inglaterra, Francia, Alemania, Austria y el resto de Europa, y la situación exige activa é inmediata atención por parte de los estadistas del Viejo Mundo. Las palabras del Conde GOLUCHOWSKI fueron reproducidas por la prensa de Francia, Alemania, Rusia y otros países europeos, lo cual prueba que aquel hombre de estado tocó uno de los asuntos palpitantes del día.

Al escritor francés, sin embargo, le parece aun más grande é inminente el peligro de la competencia americana que al estadista austriaco. No solamente están los Estados Unidos tomando posesión de los mejores mercados de Asia y la América del Sur, que hasta ahora habían sido dominados por Europa, sino que están invadiendo á las naciones europeas mismas. El enemigo se encuentra ya á sus puertas. He aquí como se expresa el publicista francés: “en menos de diez y ocho

años las exportaciones de los Estados Unidos se han triplicado. Ya no se trata de una conquista napoleónica del mundo por medio de las armas, sino de una conquista de los Yankees por medio del trabajo. Los Estados Unidos pueden arruinar á la Europa comercialmente de una manera tan eficaz como podrían hacerlo por medio de las armas." Á continuación agrega: "Los Estados Unidos están ocasionando una revolución en el equilibrio económico del mundo, revolución que comenzó en el oriente á vista y paciencia de la Gran Bretaña, con la introducción á los mercados de China y del Japón de géneros de algodón americanas, de efectos de cuero, herramientas y motores eléctricos de los Estados Unidos." Largo sería enumerar todos los artículos americanos que están tomando el lugar de los europeos en Asia y aun en los países de Europa. Si tal cosa se hiciera, equivaldría á mencionar los principales productos de los Estados Unidos.

Pero lo que naturalmente uno se pregunta es esto: ¿cómo puede impedir Europa la conquista comercial del mundo por los Estados Unidos? Este país no solamente posee más capital que cualquiera de los europeos, sino también más inteligencia para los negocios y mayores recursos. Si continúan existiendo las condiciones mediante las cuales los Estados Unidos han obtenido uno de los puestos más prominentes en los mercados neutrales del Viejo Mundo y se han sobrepuesto á los obstáculos que les ofrecían aranceles de aduanas hostiles á sus intereses, introduciendo sus productos en las principales plazas europeas, esta ventajosa posición no solamente se conservará, sino que irá tomando mayor desarrollo. El pensamiento del estadista austriaco relativo á que la Europa podría unirse contra los Estados Unidos no pasa de ser un sueño fantástico.

Hay en aquel continente tantos aranceles aduaneros y leyes fiscales como naciones, y tan imposible sería una unión comercial entre ellas como una unión política. "No existe una Europa, pero existe una América. El concierto europeo es una broma siniestra." Estas palabras de CRISPI, el ex-Primer Ministro de Italia, inmediatamente después de la destrucción de la flota española en Manila, cuando muchas personas tímidas en Europa creían que España podía ser invadida y de esta manera el resto del continente amenazado, demuestran que el astuto hombre de estado comprendía que era una locura tratar de formar una coalición europea contra nación alguna. Las conquistas comerciales de los Estados Unidos son los triunfos de un pueblo libre y progresivo, así como un espléndido tributo á la benéfica influencia de la democracia.

## SISTEMA DE ADMINISTRACIÓN PROPUESTO PARA PUERTO RICO.

El 3 de enero de este año el Senador JOSEPH B. FORAKER presentó al Senado de los Estados Unidos un proyecto de ley relativo á la forma de gobierno para la isla de Puerto Rico. En dicho proyecto se propone que continúen en vigencia las leyes y reglamentos municipales que actualmente existen, mientras la Legislatura de la isla no haya dispuesto otra cosa. Según el mismo *bill*, el Presidente tendrá facultad para nombrar un gobernador, un tribunal supremo y siete jefes de departamentos. Además, el Presidente escogerá cinco ciudadanos de la isla, quienes, asociados al gobernador y á los jefes de los departamentos, formarán la cámara alta de la Legislatura insular. La cámara baja constará de 35 miembros electos por los ciudadanos de la isla, que, según este proyecto de ley, pasan á ser ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos. También tendrán dichos ciudadanos la facultad de elegir un delegado al Congreso de los Estados Unidos, que tomará asiento en él, pero que no tendrá voto.

Para los efectos judiciales y legislativos se dividirá la isla en cinco departamentos, y cada uno tendrá su tribunal, con el número de magistrados que la legislatura señale. La Constitución de los Estados Unidos regirá en la isla y también las leyes, en cuanto su aplicación sea posible. Quedan abolidos los derechos de exportación y se establece el libre cambio entre la isla y los Estados Unidos. Las mercancías introducidas á Puerto Rico de otros países pagarán los mismos derechos que pagan cuando se introducen á los Estados Unidos. El dinero que produzcan las aduanas de Puerto Rico ingresará en el tesoro de la isla, pero lo que se recaude en calidad de renta interna irá á la Tesorería de los Estados Unidos. Se nombrará una comisión compuesta de cinco miembros, dos de los cuales serán ciudadanos de la isla, para revisar las leyes y el sistema de procedimientos judiciales. No se otorgarán franquicias de ninguna clase sin la aprobación del Gobernador de la isla y del Presidente de los Estados Unidos.

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## CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL MARÍTIMO.

De conformidad con la resolución adoptada en el séptimo Congreso Internacional Marítimo, que se reunió en Bruselas en 1898, el octavo Congreso se reunirá en París el 28 de julio, y sus sesiones durarán hasta el 3 de agosto de este año. Habrá en él delegados de Francia y de los países extranjeros, de las cámaras de comercio, de las ciudades, de las sociedades marítimas y de remolque, y de las compañías de

ferrocarril y de transportes. También serán admitidos aquellos individuos que antes de la inauguración del Congreso manifiesten su deseo de asistir á él. Las invitaciones han sido enviadas por los Señores G. MASSON y P. HOLTZ, Presidente el primero de la Cámara de Comercio de París, é Inspector General de Puentes y Caminos el segundo. Estos caballeros se hallan al frente de una gran comisión de distinguidos ciudadanos franceses, á cuyo cargo está el asunto.

## COSTA RICA.

### PROGRESO INDUSTRIAL EN 1898 Y 1899.

El Honorable WILLIAM L. MERRY, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de los Estados Unidos ante los Gobiernos de Costa Rica, Nicaragua y el Salvador, ha enviado al Departamento de Estado en Wáshington, un informe sobre la condición industrial del primero de estos tres países, en el cual se expresa así:

“La población de Costa Rica, según el censo de 1864, era de 120,500 habitantes. En 1895 había aumentado á 248,500, y en la actualidad es aproximadamente de 275,000. Las importaciones y exportaciones de la república durante el año económico que terminó el 31 de marzo de 1899, fueron como sigue:

Importaciones, valor en oro .....	\$4, 258, 896. 04
Exportaciones, valor en oro .....	5, 659, 218. 50

“Las exportaciones se dividieron de esta manera:

Café.....	\$4, 209, 569. 15
Bananos .....	923, 090. 26
Maderas y palos de tinte .....	345, 439. 04
Metales preciosos .....	48, 788. 30
Exportaciones diversas .....	132, 331. 81

“Las importaciones en el año de 1898 se dividieron como sigue: de los Estados Unidos 44.80 por ciento; de Inglaterra 19.61 por ciento; de Alemania 15.61 por ciento; de otros países 20.09 por ciento.

“En los primeros cuatro meses de 1899 la proporción de las importaciones de los Estados Unidos había alcanzado á 67.25 por ciento, debido principalmente á las facilidades de transportación por vapor, aunque es poco satisfactorio el observar que casi todas las embarcaciones empleadas en este creciente trafico fueron extranjeras. Los artículos más importantes introducidos de los Estados Unidos fueron harina, maquinaria, aceites, alambre, alambre para cercas, tubos de hierro y muebles. La importación de indianas y driles de algodón americanos también aumenta rápidamente. Del café que se exportó, 56 por ciento fué á Inglaterra, 20 por ciento á los Estados Unidos, 16 por ciento á Alemania, y 4 por ciento á otras partes. Como las dos terceras

partes de los bananos exportados fueron á Nueva Orleans, y una tercera parte á los puertos de la costa Atlántica de los Estados Unidos.

“El Ferrocarril de Costa Rica, de Puerto Limón á Alajuela, que pasa por San José y otras ciudades de la república y que tiene varios ramales, mide 137½ millas. En el año de 1898 transportó 601,198 pasajeros y como 160,000 toneladas de carga. De las acciones de este ferrocarril el Gobierno posee por valor de unos \$400,000, oro, y el resto es propiedad inglesa. Está muy bien construido con material importado de Inglaterra. Los durmientes son de hierro y prácticamente indestructibles. El Ferrocarril del Pacífico cubrirá una distancia de 58.8 millas, de San José al proyectado puerto de Tivives, en la boca del Golfo de Nicoya. Lo están construyendo contratistas americanos por cuenta del Gobierno, con material traído de los Estados Unidos, excepto los durmientes. Nueve millas están ya terminadas; 25 niveladas; 3.8 parcialmente niveladas, y 21 aun no han sido comenzadas. Hay en uso ahora en el ferrocarril una locomotora, con madera por combustible, y muchos carros de plataforma importados de los Estados Unidos. En ambos ferrocarriles la entrevía es de tres pieses y seis pulgadas.

“El ferrocarril de Limón al interior, después de atravesar una extensión como de 10 millas en un terreno sembrado de bauanos, asciende rápidamente y pasa por la ciudad de Cartago á 5,000 pies de elevación. San José, la capital, está á 3,860 pies sobre el nivel del mar, y, en consecuencia, queda en el declive del Pacífico. Este ferrocarril ha costado mucho y pasa por un terreno montañoso, lleno de bellezas naturales. De San José al Pacífico el ferrocarril construido por los americanos atravesará una región montañosa en la mitad de su extensión, llegando después al Pacífico por una pendiente comparativamente fácil, pues el máximo es de 2½ per ciento. Ambos ferrocarriles tienen necesariamente muchas curvas.

“Debe tenerse presente que las regiones montañosas de la América Central no son áridas como las Montañas Roqueñas (Rocky Mountains) y Sierra Nevada en los Estados Unidos. La caída de agua es generalmente considerable en Costa Rica. Las montañas están cubiertas de vegetación y de rica tierra vegetal, excepto en la cima. Hay numerosos ríos que corren en todas direcciones, los cuales podrían usarse para la producción de fuerza motriz eléctrica por la rapidez de su corriente. Es éste un hermoso país, cuyas regiones elevadas gozan de un clima saludable. El interior se adapta especialmente para el cultivo de café, que se vende en los mercados de Europa á un precio más alto que el del Brasil. El litoral del Atlántico es muy aparente para la producción de bananos de excelente calidad. Estos dos artículos son los dos principales productos del país. La producción del último aumenta rápidamente, pero con motivo del bajo precio del café, no ofrece aliciente su cultivo, aunque si el hacendado se encuentra libre de hipotecas, todavía puede obtener una ganancia considerable.

“Costa Rica necesita aumentar la variedad de sus productos, y éste

es un punto que ahora ocupa la atención del Gobierno y de los agricultores. El país puede producir excelente cacao, goma elástica y toda clase de frutas tropicales para la exportación. En la parte noroeste de la república hay magníficos terrenos para la cría de ganado vacuno. La república no produce actualmente todo el que consume. En las montañas, más allá de la altura donde crece el café, se podrían criar cabras de Angora. En el interior de la república existen valiosas minas de oro y cobre, á cuya explotación se ha dado principio últimamente con capital inglés y americano.

“Costa Rica tiene excelentes bahías en el Pacífico, siendo de notar, entre otras, la de Salinas, Puerto Culebra y los puertos en el Golfo de Nicoya. En la actualidad el único puerto en el litoral del Pacífico adonde arriban con frecuencia buques extranjeros, es Puntarenas, ciudad que está unida por ferrocarril con el pueblo de Esparta, que queda 15 millas al interior, y de donde parte una buena carretera que conduce á San José. Al lado del Atlántico el único puerto digno de ser mencionado es Limón, donde el Gobierno está haciendo considerables gastos para mejorar la bahía y establecer un buen sistema sanitario. Hasta hoy se ha gastado la suma de \$765,098, oro, la cual ha sido pagado de esta manera: la mitad en dinero efectivo y la otra mitad en bonos que no devengan intereses. Los trabajos están bajo la dirección de un contratista americano. Cuando la obra esté terminada, Limón será uno de los puertos más sanos de la América Central.

“Como no hay suficientes muelles, la compañía de ferrocarril está construyendo uno de acero, al que podrán atracar las embarcaciones de mayor calado. Siempre se encuentra en este puerto una pequeña cantidad de combustible. La compañía de ferrocarril mantiene una provisión de carbón inglés en bloques comprimidos para el servicio de su línea y para vapores. La población tiene excelente agua potable que se trae de las colinas inmediatas por medio de una cañería de hierro.

“Cada mes llegan al puerto de Limón 26 vapores que lo ponen en comunicación con los Estados Unidos, Europa, el litoral americano sobre el mar Caribe y las Antillas. De ocho á diez vapores correos, americanos, ingleses y chilenos, tocan mensualmente en Puntarenas, además de otras embarcaciones de vapor y de vela. Estas últimas se emplean principalmente para la exportación á Europa de maderas de ebanistería, palos de tinte, minerales, cueros, etc.

“Una de las ventajas de que Costa Rica goza sobre las otras repúblicas hispanoamericanas es el hecho de que su suelo está en gran parte dividido entre pequeños hacendados que residen en sus propias fincas, y que, en su calidad de productores, están interesados en la conservación de la paz. La fuerza vital del país está en el pueblo, que es industrioso, honrado y enemigo de revoluciones y disturbios políticos. Si se considera que el área de la república es muy pequeña y que la población es más pequeña todavía, Costa Rica tiene razón de congratularse

por su progreso. Lo único que se necesita es que se dé principio á la construcción del canal interoceánico para que ella y su hermana, la república de Nicaragua, país también de grandes riquezas naturales, se encuentren situadas en el camino real del comercio del mundo. Cuando esto suceda ambas repúblicas avanzarán rápidamente y con seguridad por la senda del bienestar y de la prosperidad.”

Al referirse á este informe, el Señor Don JOAQUÍN B. CALVO, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Costa Rica en los Estados Unidos, dice que, á su juicio, el hecho de que los giros á la vista sobre Nueva York han bajado del 180 por ciento al 130 por ciento, con tendencia á bajar más, es digno de ser notado. Según él, esto se debe principalmente á la cantidad de oro que hay en reserva y á las otras medidas preparatorias que se han adoptado para el establecimiento del patrón de oro, debiendo efectuarse la conversión á fines del año de 1900.

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## ESTADOS UNIDOS.

### COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

#### RELACIÓN DE LAS IMPORTACIONES.

En la página 52 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomado de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de noviembre de 1899, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los once meses que terminaron en noviembre de 1899, comparados con igual período de 1898. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera, no se reciben en el Departamento de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitando algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de noviembre, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en enero.

#### - COMERCIO EXTERIOR EN NOVIEMBRE.

La Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda terminó el 27 de diciembre los cuadros demostrativos de las exportaciones é importaciones durante el mes de noviembre. Por el resumen anexo á dichos cuadros se ve que el comercio exterior durante dicho mes, comparado con el de noviembre del año anterior, fué, dividido en grandes clases, como sigue:

## IMPORTACIONES.

	1898.	1899.
Artículos de alimentación y animales vivos .....	\$15, 057, 768	\$17, 260, 329
Artículos en estado crudo para industrias nacionales .....	16, 767, 452	26, 064, 684
Artículos manufacturados para uso en las artes mecánicas .....	4, 910, 237	8, 067, 680
Artículos manufacturados y listos para el consumo .....	8, 301, 376	9, 704, 402
Artículos de lujo .....	7, 059, 995	8, 924, 979
Importaciones totales .....	52, 096, 560	70, 022, 074
* Tanto por ciento de importaciones libres de derecho .....	42. 48	44. 70

## EXPORTACIONES.

Productos agrícolas .....	\$94, 911, 831	\$80, 069, 161
Productos de las manufacturas .....	26, 471, 131	33, 584, 546
Productos de las minas .....	2, 264, 678	3, 491, 845
Productos de los bosques .....	2, 827, 804	3, 710, 610
Productos de las pesquerías .....	951, 128	827, 618
Productos varios .....	47, 540	122, 036
Total de los productos nacionales exportados .....	127, 487, 547	121, 805, 816
Efectos extranjeros reexportados .....	2, 323, 853	1, 949, 600
Exportaciones totales .....	129, 797, 965	123, 755, 416

## ADQUISICIÓN RECIENTE DE UNA ISLA—TUTUILA.

De conformidad con el nuevo tratado relativo á Samoa, que fué firmado en Wáshington el 2 de diciembre del año próximo pasado entre los Estados Unidos, la Gran Bretaña y Alemania, el primero de estos países entra en posesión de algunas pequeñas islas que quedan 930 millas al sur del Ecuador, en el océano Pacífico. Estas islas son Tutuila, Ofoo, Olosenga y Manua. La más importante de ellas es Tutuila, que es la menos conocida de las tres islas principales que forman el grupo generalmente designado con el nombre de Samoa, y la cual queda como 30 millas al sureste de las otras dos—Savaii y Upolu—que, en virtud del mismo tratado, pasan á ser colonias de Alemania.

La isla de Tutuila tiene como 18 millas de largo y como 5 de ancho, según Mr. H. L. LUSK, que la ha visitado. Los misioneros que residen allí calculan que su población es de poco más de 5,000 habitantes. Casi todas las aldeas en que viven los naturales están cerca de la costa septentrional, enfrente de Upolu. El aspecto general de Tutuila, como el de casi todas las tierras volcánicas, es muy hermoso. Á partir de la costa el terreno se levanta á una altura de 900 á 1,000 pies. En los declives hay bosques muy espesos, aunque los árboles no son de gran tamaño.

En la parte septentrional de la isla el terreno descende en una pendiente más ó menos rápida, en la cual se encuentran grandes valles y arroyos; pero en la parte meridional, especialmente cerca de la extremidad oriental de la isla, la costa es muy escarpada. Aquí es donde se encuentra la Bahía de Pago Pago, que es la mejor y más segura en todo el grupo de Samoa. Es esta bahía casi circular y de gran extensión. Está rodeada de colinas y su entrada es muy angosta. Es el



único puerto en el grupo de Samoa donde las embarcaciones pueden permanecer ancladas durante un huracán. Se asegura que todos los buques de guerra de los Estados Unidos podrían anclar á un mismo tiempo en aquellas aguas. Durante quince años Pago Pago ha sido una estación carbonera que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos arrendó de uno de los jefes del país, pero solamente á largos intervalos fué visitada esa bahía por barcos de guerra.

Los productos de la isla son limitados. En toda la costa se encuentran cocos, cuyo fruto se exporta en pequeñas cantidades. Los naranjos adquieren grandes dimensiones. La nuez moscada, la *maranta arundinaca*, que produce el sagú de Jamaica, el jengibre y la piña se encuentran por todas partes. Los naturales viven en chozas hechas de cáscaras de árboles y de paja y trabajan muy poco, porque la pródiga naturaleza les da en abundancia todo lo que necesitan.

#### EDIFICIO DE MAQUINARIA EN LA EXPOSICIÓN DE PARÍS.

En el mes de noviembre próximo pasado se remitió de los talleres de la Berlin Iron Bridge Company, que se hallan en East Berlin, Connecticut, una gran cantidad de piezas de construcción consignada al Comisionado de los Estados Unidos en la Exposición de París. Estas piezas de acero van á servir para la armazón del edificio de maquinaria que se va á construir en París para uso exclusivo, durante la Exposición, de los ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos que exhiban máquinas para trabajos en hierro y en madera. El edificio tendrá 343 pies de largo y 77 de ancho. Será hecho de productos de los Estados Unidos, llevados en transportes americanos, y será construido por mecánicos de este país que con tal objeto irán á París. Todo el edificio, incluyendo la maquinaria y cuanto más se encuentre dentro de él, será una exhibición de los Estados Unidos, y allí se expondrá maquinaria americana funcionando, con todos los aparatos modernos, incluyendo grúas locomóviles, soportes colgantes, motores eléctricos, aparatos de trasmisión de fuerza, etc.

#### MUSEO DE ANTIGÜEDADES DE MÉXICO Y LA AMÉRICA CENTRAL.

Se anuncia que el Museo de Historia Natural de la ciudad de Nueva York tiene ahora en exhibición, en el salón denominado Mexican Hall, la colección más perfecta de objetos relacionados con la antigua civilización de México y la América Central. Se han necesitado años para formar esta colección, y dos expediciones fueron enviadas con el objeto especial de recoger dichos objetos, entre los cuales hay copias de los monumentos y edificios de Yucatán, Guatemala y otros lugares. Algunas de estas copias son de gran tamaño y muy interesantes. La colección contiene también imitaciones litográficas de manuscritos en lengua mexicana y maya, que fueron llevados á Europa por los españoles. Estos manuscritos fueron descubiertos y copiados por el Duque de Loubat, á sus expensas, y por primera vez se encuentran reunidos en un lugar donde pueden ser estudiados.

## ESTADO DE LAS COSECHAS.

Según el boletín publicada por el Departamento de Agricultura el 3 del corriente, la condición de la cosecha de trigo en el mes de diciembre era como sigue: “el tiempo fué generalmente favorable durante el mes para el trigo de invierno, según se deja ver por los informes recibidos de la mayor parte de los estados. Las sementeras se han desarrollado muy bien y prometen mucho, excepto en el estado de Michigan y en algunas partes del estado de Ohio. En el primero de estos dos estados el trigo no se desarrolló satisfactoriamente, y en el segundo tampoco está en buenas condiciones para el invierno.” Se teme que lo crudo de la estación á fines de diciembre y á principios de enero, haya causado algún daño á las sementeras que no estaban protegidas por la nieve, principalmente en algunas partes de Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana é Illinois, al mismo tiempo que las heladas, alternando con el deshielo, daban resultados desfavorables para las cosechas en West Virginia y Missouri. En los estados de la costa del Pacífico las sementeras se encuentran en excelentes condiciones. Se recibieron informes de que la mosca conocida con el nombre de *Hessian fly*, había causado algún daño, pero este fué insignificante fuera de Michigan, Pennsylvania y Tennessee.

## LA INDUSTRIA DE SEDA EN NEW JERSEY.

El Jefe de la Oficina de Estadística del estado de New Jersey ha compilado informes especiales relativos á la industria de seda. Hay más de \$20,000,000 invertidos en ella y el número de fábricas es mayor que en lo pasado. El valor de lo que estas últimas producen es doble mayor que lo era hace diez años, á pesar del hecho de haberse fundado durante dicho período, fábricas de ese artículo en otros estados. El número de empleados ha aumentado ciento por ciento, pues en 1880 era de 12,500 y en 1899 pasaba de 26,000. Durante el último año los operarios recibieron salarios por valor de \$10,650,789, y como 9,000 recibieron \$10 á la semana ó más. De las personas empleadas en dichas fábricas en 1890, 52 por ciento eran mujeres y 48 por ciento hombres. El año pasado 45 por ciento fueron mujeres y 55 por ciento hombres. El valor de los géneros producidos en 1899 fué de \$42,570,690. En la actualidad las mejores clases de géneros de seda se fabrican en el estado de New Jersey.

## VENTAS DE CAFÉ EN EL MERCADO DE NUEVA YORK.

Las ventas totales de café en el mercado de Nueva York durante el año de 1899, fueron de 4,420,000 sacos, contra 4,213,000 sacos en 1898 y 4,028,250 sacos en 1897. El aumento en este año sobre el pasado ha sido de 207,000 sacos. El precio más alto que se pagó por café de Río No. 7, entregado de presente, fué de 7 centavos por libra en el mes de noviembre, y el más bajo fué de  $5\frac{7}{16}$  centavos en septiembre. El pre-

cio más alto por entregas futuras ocurrió en diciembre, cuando se pagó por cantidades que deben ser entregadas en octubre de 1900, á razón de 6.65 centavos por libra. El precio más bajo por entregas futuras ocurrió en septiembre, habiéndose pagado 4.10 centavos la libra por café que ha de entregarse en octubre de este año.

#### EXPOSITORES AMERICANOS EN PARÍS.

El Comisionado General de los Estados Unidos á la Exposición de París, Mr. PECK, ha publicado una lista de los principales expositores americanos que han aceptado el espacio que les ha sido asignado. La lista contiene 1,095 nombres de personas, casas de comercio y corporaciones, pero no figuran en ella los de expositores de productos agrícolas y minerales ó de obras literarias y científicas, bellas artes, etc. Una lista de esta clase debería contener como 7,000 nombres. En el catálogo oficial que se está preparando aparecerá una lista completa dividida en grupos y clases.

#### FALSIFICACIÓN DE MARCAS DE FÁBRICA.

Varios fabricantes de Nueva Inglaterra están tratando de averiguar quienes son las personas que han introducido en los mercados sudamericanos una imitación de sus franelas. Se dice también que artículos de otra clase han sido imitados por manufactureros europeos que los envían principalmente á los mercados de la América del Sur y del Oriente.

El asunto en cuestión fué puesto en conocimiento de los representantes de un fabricante de los Estados Unidos por un corresponsal en Valparaiso. Este último conocía los productos de la fábrica y le causó sorpresa la deterioración de los efectos que llevaban su nombre. Al examinarlos, observó que se habían hecho ligeras alteraciones en la manera de escribir algunas de las palabras en el marbete, á fin de evitar una acusación por fraude, alteración que no podían percibir las personas que no conocían el idioma inglés.

Se está tratando con diligencia de averiguar quienes son los falsificadores y ya se ha descubierto que las franelas falsificadas fueron hechas en Europa.

Hace algunos años varios de los consules americanos en Europa llamaron la atención del Gobierno de Washington á procedimientos de esta misma clase. El asunto de que ahora se trata puede asumir un carácter internacional.

#### PRODUCCIÓN DE AZÚCAR EN HAWAII.

En un informe que Mr. HAROLD SEWALL, ex-Ministro de los Estados Unidos en Hawaii, dirigió de Honolulu al Departamento de Estado, dice que la producción total de azúcar en aquellas islas durante la estación de 1899, fué de 304,603 toneladas, ó sea 50,000 toneladas en exceso de la cantidad calculada por el célebre estadista alemán LICHT.

Las importaciones en la isla durante el año de 1899, representaron un valor de \$15,945,349, ó sea un aumento de \$5,973,753 sobre las del año precedente.

#### RECLAMACIÓN CONTRA MÉXICO DECLARADA SIN FUNDAMENTO

El 11 de diciembre de 1899 el Tribunal Supremo de los Estados Unidos confirmó la sentencia del Tribunal de Reclamaciones en el asunto de La Abra Silver Mining Company contra la república de México. En dicha sentencia se declara que la reclamación, que asciende como á \$4,000,000, es fraudulenta é infundada.

La sentencia del Tribunal Supremo fué leída por el Magistrado HARLAN. En ella se dice, entre otras cosas, que la reclamación, tal como fué presentada al principio en 1870 á la Comisión de Reclamaciones entre los Estados Unidos y México, era por valor de \$1,950,000, pero que más tarde fué elevada á la suma de \$3,962,000. Se basaba esta reclamación en los daños que se alegaba había sufrido La Abra Company á manos de autoridades mexicanas, mientras llevaba adelante sus trabajos en el estado de Durango, daños que se estimaban en la cantidad referida.

La Comisión, de acuerdo con lo resuelto por el tercero en discordia, Sir EDWARD THORNTON, concedió á los reclamantes la suma de \$683,041. Cuando ya se había pagado una parte de esta cantidad al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos para La Abra Company, el Gobierno mexicano llamó la atención del Departamento de Estado al hecho de que existían nuevas pruebas para demostrar que la reclamación era fraudulenta. Después de varios procedimientos, el Congreso dictó una ley en 1892 autorizando al Tribunal de Reclamaciones para que hiciese una investigación del caso, que tendiese especialmente á averiguar si la reclamación era fraudulenta ó no y si estaba apoyada por declaraciones falsas. Este Tribunal descubrió que la reclamación era fraudulenta.

La sentencia del Tribunal de Reclamaciones fué ratificada por el Tribunal Supremo. Este último dice en su sentencia, que las pruebas obtenidas demuestran que toda la historia de las pérdidas sufridas á consecuencia de abusos cometidos por las autoridades mexicanas, es improbable é infundada, y que, aunque la compañía estaba quebrada, esto no se debía á acción alguna de los empleados del Gobierno de México. Como resultado de esta sentencia se suspenderán los pagos á los reclamantes.

Al emitir su resolución sobre el caso, el Tribunal Supremo agregó incidentalmente que la firma del Presidente de la república puesta al pie de un *bill* durante el receso del Congreso, con tal que eso se hubiese hecho dentro de los diez días constitucionales, bastaba para dar fuerza de ley á dicho *bill*, como si aquel alto Cuerpo estuviera en sesión.

Esta última resolución fué emitida porque se había tratado de atacar la constitucionalidad de la ley de 1892, autorizando al Tribunal de Reclamaciones á hacer la antedicha investigación, ley que fué ratificada

durante el receso de Navidad de 1892-93. El Tribunal declaró que el requisito esencial era que el Presidente firmara un *bill*, y que no tenía importancia el hecho de que la firma fuese puesta durante el receso del Congreso ó cuando éste estaba en sesión, con tal que ello se hiciese dentro de los diez días concedidos al Ejecutivo. Sin embargo, la resolución sobre el punto no abrazó la cuestión de la legalidad de la ratificación ejecutiva después de que el Congreso hubiese cerrado definitivamente sus sesiones, porque acerca de esto último no se presentó objeción alguna.

#### NUEVO REGLAMENTO DE GIROS POSTALES.

El 2 de enero comenzaron á regir en los Estados Unidos tres diferentes tarifas de giros postales internacionales. La primera se refiere á los giros pagaderos en Cuba y en Puerto Rico. La segunda es de precios especiales para giros pagaderos en México. La tercera contiene los precios internacionales ordinarios, tales como han sido publicados en las leyes y reglamentos postales. La segunda tarifa, que es nueva, fué hecha mediante una convención celebrada en setiembre próximo pasado, en la que se autoriza el cambio directo de giros postales con la república de México. La oficina de correos de Laredo, Texas, funcionará en adelante como oficina de cambio internacional por parte de los Estados Unidos, y la oficina de Nuevo Laredo desempeñará la misma función en lo que se relaciona á México. La cantidad por que se gire en los Estados Unidos debe expresarse en moneda americana, y aquella por que se gire en México en moneda mexicana.

#### CUBA EN LA EXPOSICIÓN DE PARÍS DE 1900.

El Señor DEMETRIO ALBERTINI ha sido nombrado Secretario de la Comisión que tendrá á su cargo la exhibición de Cuba en la Exposición de París de 1900. Se ha asignado á dicho caballero un sueldo de \$250 pesos al mes. El Secretario de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos ha señalado \$25,000 para los gastos de la exhibición, cantidad que debe tomarse de las rentas de Cuba.

#### IMPORTANTE CONTRATO DE MADERAS.

El periódico de Londres "Tenders and Contracts," correspondiente al 12 de diciembre de 1899, corrobora lo que últimamente dijo el "New York Sun" relativamente á un contrato que se celebró entre el Gobierno británico y una casa de Beaumont, Texas, con objeto de proveer al primero de 500,000,000 pies de madera de pino. Al hablar de este asunto, el mencionado periódico se expresa así:

"Al principio la magnitud del contrato impidió que se diera crédito á la noticia, porque para transportar semejante cantidad habría necesidad de despachar todos los días durante dos años un buque que pudiera llevar 800,000 pies de madera, y para esto sería menester emplear constantemente durante ese período una flota de cien barcos. Sin embargo,

la noticia parece ser cierta. El contrato se mantuvo secreto mientras se efectuaban arreglos con otras casas, y hoy que está terminado hay veinte aserraderos funcionando á fin de darle cumplimiento. Cada uno de ellos asierra 40,000 pies de madera al día. Dicha madera está destinada al ferrocarril que Mr. CECIL RHODES tiene en proyecto y que irá del Cairo al Cabo de Buena Esperanza. La mayor parte de los embarques se hará en el puerto de Sabine, Texas."

#### PRODUCTOS MINERALES DEL ESTADO DE MICHIGAN.

Mr. GEORGE A. NEWELL, Comisionado de Minas del estado de Michigan, dice, en su informe anual correspondiente á 1898 y publicado en 1899, lo siguiente: "Á fin de dar una idea clara de la cantidad de minerales que el estado de Michigan ha producido durante el año, me permito manifestar que si todo el mineral de hierro producido fuera convertido en rieles de un peso de 50 libras el pie, se podría con ellos darle una vez y media la vuelta al mundo, y que si el cobre extraído de las minas fuera transformado en alambre de teléfono No. 12, se podría con él darle la vuelta al mundo  $29\frac{1}{2}$  veces. Además, si los barriles de sal fabricados en Michigan en 1898 fueron puestos en fila, cubrirían una extensión no interrumpida de 1,500 millas. Considero que el precio de mercado de los minerales producidos en el estado durante el año es de \$38,825,000. De esta cantidad el mineral de hierro representa \$18,450,847, el cobre \$16,834,670, y la sal \$2,686,272."

#### RESERVA DE TERRENOS EN HAWAI.

El Presidente ha dictado una orden relativa á que siete acres de terreno, poco más ó menos, pertenecientes á la reserva del Gobierno que queda al este de "Punch Bowl," en la isla de Oahu, sean destinados como sitio para un hospital marítimo de los Estados Unidos, que se va á construir para el puerto de Honolulu.

#### CENSO DE LAS ANTILLAS.

El Cuartel Maestre General LUDINGTON recibió aviso de que el transporte *McPherson* zarpó el lunes de Cienfuegos y que en él vienen todos los datos referentes al censo de Cuba y al de Puerto Rico.

#### COMISIÓN DE NEGOCIOS INSULARES.

La Cámara de Diputados de los Estados Unidos ha creado una Comisión de Negocios Insulares, lo cual prueba que reconoce la importancia de la cuestiones que se relacionan con las nuevas posesiones del país. Esta comisión se compondrá de 17 miembros, y se ocupará en todos los asuntos que se refieren á Puerto Rico, las Filipinas y Cuba, con excepción de los que versan sobre rentas y presupuestos. El Senado ha nombrado tres comisiones más pequeñas para la consideración de asuntos insulares.

## NOTAS MISCELÁNEAS.

Mr. ALFRED DUTTENHOEFER, que está al frente de una casa que comercia en granos, con sucursales en algunos puntos de Alemania, compró en noviembre en Kansas trigo por valor de varios centenares de miles de pesos. Este trigo será embarcado para Europa en el puerto de Galveston, Texas. Mr. DUTTENHOEFER dice que lo insuficiente de la cosecha en Europa y la mala calidad del grano han sido causa de que su país compre trigo de los Estados Unidos.

El almacén de refrigeración que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos va á construir en Manila tendrá 245 pies por cada uno de sus lados y 2 pisos de alto. Podrá contener 12,000 reses muertas entre ganado vacuno y carneros, esto es, 5,000 de las primeras y 7,000 de las segundas; 100 toneladas de tocino, 50 toneladas de mantequilla, 100 toneladas de legumbres y una máquina de hacer hielo que podrá fabricar 40 toneladas al día.

Se trata de hacer experimentos en las Islas de Hawai con una nueva medicina para la curación de la lepra. Se dice que se han obtenido notables resultados con dicha medicamento. Es el producto de un arbusto de Venezuela, introducido en la isla por el Dr. CARMICHAEL, facultativo al servicio de los Estados Unidos, que ha recibido instrucciones del Gobierno de Wáshington para hacer los referidos experimentos.

La Oficina de Navegación del Departamento de Marina de los Estados Unidos ha publicado una lista de los buques que forman la flota del país. Su número asciende á 312. En dicha lista están incluídos varios barcos pequeños capturados en Cuba y en las Islas Filipinas, pero, aun excluyendo éstos, el aumento en los navios de guerra durante los últimos dos años es muy notable.

El uso á que últimamente se han dedicado los automóviles es á remolcar barcos en los canales. El periódico "Exporters and Importers' Journal" correspondiente al 9 de diciembre de 1899, dice que se está construyendo en Hatton, Connecticut, á un costo de \$4,000, un automóvil que podrá remolcar de 6 á 10 barcos á la vez en el canal del Erie.

La Exposición Nacional de Artículos para la Exportación produjo más dinero del que se esperaba, y esto ha permitido á la Comisión Administrativa pagar la cantidad de cien mil pesos que había sido adelantada por algunos ciudadanos prominentes.

## BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

En esta sección del Boletín Mensual se tratará de los libros y folletos enviados á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que se refieren á asuntos relacionados con los países de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

El canje de publicaciones de Centro y Sud América puede efectuarse por conducto de la "Smithsonian Institution," Wáshington, D. C., por medio de las agencias de distribución que tiene en aquellos países y que son las siguientes:

Argentina: Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires.

Bolivia: Oficina Nacional de Inmigración, Estadística y Propaganda Geográfica, La Paz.

Chile: Universidad de Chile, Santiago.

Colombia: Biblioteca Nacional, Bogotá.

Costa Rica: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, San José.

Guatemala: Instituto Nacional de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Honduras: Biblioteca Nacional, Tegucigalpa.

México: Todos los envíos gozan de la franquicia del correo.

Nicaragua: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Managua.

Paraguay: Oficina General de Informaciones y Canje y Comisaría General de Inmigración, Asunción.

Perú: Biblioteca Nacional, Lima.

San Salvador: Museo Nacional, San Salvador.

Uruguay: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, Montevideo.

Venezuela: Museo Nacional, Caracas.

Se ha recibido en esta Oficina la interesante y voluminosa obra de Don JUAN JOSÉ CASTRO, que lleva este título: "Estudio de los Ferrocarriles que Ligarán en el Porvenir las Repúblicas Americanas, Presentado al Congreso Científico Latino-Americano de Buenos Aires." Es un estudio notable de la cuestión sobre que versa, y revela que su autor le ha dedicado mucho tiempo y cuidadosa atención. Contiene la obra once capítulos, en los cuales se describen con maestría las vías férreas que están destinadas á servir de lazo de unión entre las repúblicas americanas. Deja ver en su obra el Señor CASTRO que no solamente posee profundos conocimientos como ingeniero, sino también las elevadas miras de un verdadero estadista. Detalladamente expone cuanto constituye los sistemas ferrocarrileros de la América del Sur, y hace mención especial de aquéllos que podrían ser utilizados para ligar á todas las naciones del continente americano.

Difícil sería encontrar un tema de mayor interés y trascendencia para los pueblos del Nuevo Mundo que el que el Señor CASTRO eligió para su importante trabajo, pues en la realización del proyecto que él desa-



rolla y explica con tanta erudición como buen criterio, están interesadas diez y siete repúblicas.

Anexos al libro del Señor CASTRO hay dos mapas, uno de los ferrocarriles destinados á unir en lo futuro las naciones de la América del Norte, del Centro y del Sur, y el otro de las grandes líneas férreas internacionales que han de ligar más tarde á los países sudamericanos. En ellos se muestran las líneas en explotación, en construcción, estudiadas y por estudiar. La obra de Señor CASTRO merece llamar la atención de todos los ingenieros que se interesan en la construcción del ferrocarril intercontinental.

El Señor Don JUAN JOSÉ CASTRO, ex-Ministro de Fomento de la república del Uruguay, ha publicado un opúsculo con este título: "Puerto de Montevideo. Análisis Comparativos de las Soluciones Técnica y Financiera Proyectadas respecto de este Asunto." Es una defensa de lo que se hizo mientras la cartera de fomento estuvo á su cargo, para la mejora del puerto de Montevideo. Sostiene el Señor CASTRO que el proyecto que se debe adoptar es el que fué presentado por el ingeniero GUÉRARD, y aduce poderosas razones en favor de su opinión. Según dice el Señor CASTRO, la ejecución de dicho proyecto costaría la suma de \$14,264,500.

El autor entra detenidamente en consideraciones de carácter económico, y bien se ve que ha hecho especial estudio del asunto. Todo el opúsculo está escrito en lenguaje muy claro y da una idea exacta de la materia sobre que versa. Siendo Montevideo uno de los primeros puertos de la América del Sur, salta á vista la necesidad de hacerle aquellas mejoras que lo coloquen á la altura de lo que exigen en nuestros días los adelantos de la navegación. Natural es que una cuestión de tan vital importancia para el Uruguay haya despertado gran interés en aquel país, cosa que se deja ver por el notable trabajo del Señor CASTRO. Como ilustraciones la obra contiene tres diseños que representan los proyectos que han sido sometidos para la composición del puerto.

Con el título de "Anuario Pillado," ha fundado en Buenos Aires el Señor Don RICARDO PILLADO una publicación en la que, de una manera concisa, se dan minuciosos informes sobre las deudas públicas argentinas y las sociedades por acciones, nacionales y extranjeras, que tienen intereses en el país, incluyendo su situación actual, capitales, reservas, dividendos repartidos y cotización de todos los valores negociables. El volumen que se ha recibido en esta Oficina contiene, además de lo expuesto atrás, una reseña histórica del papel moneda en la República Argentina, desde su origen en 1822, época en que su emisión fué autorizada por una disposición legislativa de 19 de junio de aquel año, hasta nuestros días; una descripción prolija de los territorios nacionales; una nómina de las sociedades legalmente constituidas durante el año, y otra de las que han perdido su personalidad jurídica; cuadros del promedio de cotización del oro durante los últimos quince años y del valor de la moneda nacional legal comparada con las demás del mundo, así como muchas otras noticias de positivo interés.

Muy recomendable es el trabajo del Señor PILLADO, y merece que se le mire como una obra importante de información para aquellas personas que deseen emprender negocios en la República Argentina.

El Museo Comercial de Filadelfia ha publicado dos monografías escritas por el Dr. GUSTAVO NIEDERLEIN, Jefe del Departamento Científico. Estos trabajos tratan de la topografía, geología, riqueza mineral y suelo de Costa Rica y Guatemala; describen su clima, dan detalles sobre la flora y la fauna, en cuanto se relacionan con su valor económico, y muestran la distribución de la población, de acuerdo con la raza, riqueza y condiciones sociales. Hacen también un estudio del desarrollo agrícola de las repúblicas, incluyendo la riqueza forestal y la cantidad de ganado que ambas poseen. Finalmente dan cuenta de los puntos principales relativos al comercio, industria y condiciones políticas y económicas.

El trabajo es el resultado de observaciones y estudios hechos en 1897 y 1898, durante siete meses y medio de exploraciones en la América Central y de informes sacados con gran cuidado de manuscritos fidedignos, de libros y de documentos y publicaciones oficiales.

Con el título de "Diccionario de Barbarismos y Provincialismos de Costa Rica," publicó en 1893 el Señor Don CARLOS GAGINI un interesante trabajo, que revela estudio dilatado de la lengua castellana y profundo conocimiento de la misma. Laudable fué el propósito del Señor GAGINI, y sería de desear que en todos los países hispano-americanos se publicaran obras como la citada á fin de conservar la pureza del hermoso idioma castellano. Ya otros escritores notables, tales como CUERVO, RODRÍGUEZ, PICHARDO, ARONA y RIVODÓ, habían dado á luz libros parecidos al del Señor GAGINI, cuyo diccionario es de gran utilidad no solamente en Costa Rica, sino también en todas las otras repúblicas de la América Central. Verdadero servicio prestan á las letras hispano-americanas los escritores que, á semejanza del Señor GAGINI, se dedican á estudios críticos sobre el lenguaje, y sus esfuerzos son muy dignos de encomio y de imitación.

El 26 de mayo de 1899 el Museo Comercial de Filadelfia publicó un boletín científico intitulado "Contribuciones a la Herpetología de Nueva Granada y la Argentina, con descripciones de nuevas formas," por EDUARDO D. COPE. Es una obra póstuma editada por J. PERCY MOORE. La colección que sirvió de base para la investigación fué hecha en Colombia, cerca de Bogotá, para la Exposición Universal de Chicago, donde fué exhibida en la sección de Nueva Granada.

El periódico "Harpers' Weekly" contiene en su número de 9 de diciembre de 1899, ilustraciones que representan modelos de los barcos de guerra de los Estados Unidos, los cuales serán exhibidos en la Exposición de París. Hay en todo 25 de estos modelos y abrazan los mejores tipos de buques de guerra que se encuentran hoy en servicio activo.

# BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

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VOL. VIII.

JANEIRO DE 1900.

No. 1.

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## EXPORTAÇÕES DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS PARA A EUROPA.

Depois dos prosperos annos de 1897 e 1898, o progresso dos Estados Unidos continuou desenvolvendo-se em maiores proporções em 1899.

Tres classes de industrias são as que talvez dão melhor idea da prosperidade nacional, a saber: A de ferro e aço, a de lençaria e a de joias. A julgar pelo que elles foram em 1899, nunca tem este paiz alcançado como nesse anno progressos tão notaveis.

Ha poucos annos os Estados Unidos não podiam supprir suas mesmas necessidades em quanto a artigos manufacturados, e suas exportações eram insignificantes, comparativamente fallando. O notavel augmento que se tem verificado na exportação de manufacturas americanas para outros paizes, especialmente para os da Europa, é motivo sufficiente para que o BOLETIM MENSAL chame a attenção das outras republicas que formam parte da União Internacional para os recursos dos Estados Unidos e ao facto de que os productos de suas fabricas teem invadido os mercados europeós. As exportações totaes dos Estados Unidos durante o anno economico que terminou o dia 30 de Junho de 1899 tiveram um valor de \$1,204,123,134, de cuja quantia os artigos manufacturados representaram \$338,667,794. O valor da exportação para a Europa foi de \$936,781,169. O valor total das manufacturas exportadas desde o principio de 1889 até fins de 1898 augmentou durante a decada 110 por cento, e é este o unico paiz onde se tem visto um desenvolvimento semelhante.

A exportação de manufacturas em 1899 foi como tres vezes maior que em 1879. Os metaes, principalmente o ferro e o aço, teem occupado o primeiro lugar na exportação. Em 1880 a exportação destes artigos

representou um valor de \$14,716,524, e em 1899 de \$93,715,951. Por outra parte as importações de effectos de ferro e aço foram em 1880 por valor de \$71,266,699, enquanto que em 1899 sómente ascenderam a \$12,098,239. O valor dos trilhos exportados em 1889 foi de \$235,387, e em 1899 se elevou a \$5,298,125. A exportação de instrumentos agrícolas em 1899 foi por valor de \$12,432,197, de cuja quantia Europa tomou \$7,442,654. A exportação de artigos para construcções, serras e ferramentas foi em 1889 por valor de \$1,700,390, e em 1899 subiu a \$7,842,372. Desta quantia os paizes europeós tomaram \$3,747,974. O valor total das machinas de coser exportadas em 1889 foi de \$2,247,875, e desta quantia os paizes europeós tomaram por valor de \$1,179,705. A exportação deste mesmo artigo em 1899 ascendeu a \$3,264,344, de cuja somma Europa pagou \$1,908,732.

O valor das machinas de escrever enviadas para o estrangeiro em 1899 foi de \$2,449,205, e o das bicyclettas de \$5,753,880. Estas duas industrias tem-se desenvolvido de uma maneira phenomenal durante os ultimos dez annos. A exportação de bicyclettas em 1899 excedeu em valor á de carros de estrada de ferro e carruagens. O augmento na exportação de instrumentos eapparelhos scientificos em 1899 foi consideravel, pois representou um valor de \$4,399,180, enquanto que até o anno de 1889 a dita exportação nunca tinha ascendido a \$1,000,000. Da quantia exportada no anno passado Europa tomou \$2,090,620.

A exportação de artigos de cobre augmentou muito em 1899, pois subiu a \$34,476,343, havendo tomado desta quantia os paizes europeós \$34,269,822.

A exportação de relógios de parede, de mesa e de bolso tem augmentado gradualmente, e foi em 1899 por valor de \$1,863,431.

É muito satisfactorio o augmento na exportação de generos de algodão. Em 1889 exportaram-se 118,453,191 jardas; em 1898 a quantidade foi de 270,507,811 jardas e em 1899 subiu a 412,004,055 jardas, no valor de \$18,969,897. Desta somma a Grã Bretanha tomou por valor de \$628,445 e os outros paizes europeós por valor de \$931,448, ou seja um total de \$1,559,893. A China tomou mais da metade dos generos de algodão que se exportaram em 1899.

A exportação de sola em 1899 ascendeu a 37,120,912 libras, avaliadas em \$6,280,904. O valor de todos os outros artigos de couro exportados foi de \$13,444,569, e desta quantia Europa tomou \$12,195,045.

O calçado dos Estados Unidos goza de boa reputação em todas as partes do mundo. A exportação deste artigo em 1889 teve um valor de \$585,902, e em 1899 de \$2,711,385. A quantidade que foi enviada para a Europa no anno passado representou um valor de \$703,965.

A exportação de moveis em 1899 foi por valor de \$3,571,375, de cuja quantia a Europa tomou \$1,563,526. O valor dos petrechos navaes exportados em 1899 foi de \$9,982,955, e desta somma os paizes europeós tomaram \$8,597,253.

A exportação de productos chimicos dos Estados Unidos ascendeu em 1899 a \$10,995,289.

Quasi as duas terças partes do oleo para illuminação que se exportou em 1899 foram á Europa. A quantidade total exportada foi de 805,956,345 gallões. O valor deste oleo por gallão foi muito menor que o era ha dez annos, mas o valor total da exportação, que em 1889 foi de \$39,286,333, ascendeu em 1899 a \$50,200,518. A exportação de paraffina tem augmentado notavelmente durante os ultimos dez annos. O valor da exportação em 1899, que quasi toda foi para a Europa, ascendeu a \$6,804,684. Em 1889 foi sómente por valor de \$2,029,602.

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## RESUMO DA SITUAÇÃO COMMERCIAL DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EM 1899.

O progresso dos Estados Unidos durante o anno de 1899 tem sido extraordinario. Seu commercio exterior desenvolveu-se de uma maneira prodigiosa. Parece incrível que as exportações no dito anno excederam em mais de um bilhão de dollares ás importações e exportações combinadas em 1870. A importação por cabeça foi 20 por cento menos que em 1870, enquanto que a exportação foi 58 por cento mais que naquelle anno. A exportação de productos agricolas ascendeu á enorme somma de \$784,776,142, e a de artigos manufacturados elevou-se a \$339,592,146.

A condição do Thesouro é altamente satisfactoria, pois, segundo os dados subministrados em seu relatorio pelo Secretario da Fazenda, haverá no presente anno economico um saldo de \$40,000,000. Em sua ultima mensagem ao Congresso dos Estados Unidos, o Senhor Presidente McKINLEY, ao referir-se á situação economica da nação, exprime-se assim:

“O estado satisfactorio do Thesouro se demonstra com o facto de que no dia 1º de Dezembro de 1899 o balanço em caixa disponivel era de \$278,004,837.72, dos quaes \$239,744,905.36 estavam em ouro acunhado e em barras. A confiança que reina por todo o paiz tem feito mais geral o uso do ouro, e os direitos aduaneiros se pagam agora quasi exclusivamente nesse metal.”

Rara vez se tem realizado como em 1899 as predições e esperanças relativas á prosperidade e engrandecimento da nação. Esta é a conclusão a que necessariamente se chega quando se examina a immensidade do trafico e dos negocios em geral durante os doze mezes que acabam de passar. A elevação no preço dos principaes productos, assim como em toda classe de valores, tem sido tão enorme que difficilmente se poudé haver previsto. Outro facto notabilissimo é o augmento nos salarios que se pagam aos trabalhadores nas fabricas, ao mesmo tempo que, ao terminar-se o anno anterior, os manufactureiros de todo o paiz encontravam-se com pedidos que alcançam até seis mezes no futuro. Si se tomam, como mostra do immenso commercio dos Estados Unidos durante o anno de 1899, as liquidações dos bancos, ver-se-ha

que montam a portentosa somma de \$93,300,000,000, ou seja um augmento de 36 por cento sobre o anno de 1898.

Em vista da prosperidade geral durante o anno de 1899, se comprehende que as quebras tenham sido muito menores do que em outros annos, e segundo a acreditada revista economica mercantil, "Bradstreet," alcançaram á cousa de 9,550 sómente, que é um total 17 por cento menor que o do anno de 1898.

O commercio entre os Estados Unidos e as republicas latino-americanas augmentou notavelmente em 1899, e ainda que todavia não tem alcançado o gráo de desenvolvimento a que está destinado, é evidente que sua tendencia é para augmentar mais e mais cada dia. Numerosos artigos de fabricação americana que antes eram quasi desconhecidos nos mercados da America Central e do Sul rivalisam agora vantajosamente com os productos européos da mesma classe.

Dignos de ser mencionados, entre outros, são os objectos de couro que antes se importavam naquelles paizes quasi exclusivamente da Europa, e que hoje vão em grande parte dos Estados Unidos. O calçado americano goza de grande reputação na America latina, e em varias partes tem substituido por completo o francez, que por muitos annos occupou o primeiro lugar. O desenvolvimento a que tem chegado esta industria nos Estados Unidos se deve a que este artigo é fabricado aqui com mais perfeição que em outros paizes e aos mesmos preços. Hoje os Estados Unidos não importam calçado de nenhuma parte, mas o exportam para a Grã Bretanha, França, Allemanha, o Canadá, a America Central e do Sul, Australia e outros lugares. Segundo os dados subministrados pela Repartição de Estatística da Secretaria da Fazenda, a exportação de calçado nos dez mezes que terminaram em Abril do anno proximo passado foi no valor de \$2,049,047, contra \$1,439,512 no mesmo periodo do anno anterior.

A exportação de toda a classe de machinas dos Estados Unidos para os paizes sul-americanos, fez grandes progressos no anno passado, e já se reconhece por toda a parte o facto de que as machinas que se fabricam nos Estados Unidos para toda a classe de industrias são, sob todos os conceitos, as melhores do mundo.

Os generos de algodão americanos teem sido conhecidos por muitos annos em todos os mercados deste continente, e a exportação desses artigos teve consideravel incremento em 1899. Não ha razão alguma para que não tomem o lugar dos européos, sendo, como são, superiores a estes em todo sentido. A industria de seda se desenvolveu consideravelmente durante o anno anterior. Em Janeiro de 1899 havia fabricas de fazendas de seda em vinte e oito dos Estados da União, e o numero total daquellas era de 861.

Em 1899 os Estados Unidos celebraram tratados de reciprocidade commercial com a Grã Bretanha, em representação de varias de suas colonias no mar das Antilhas, com a Republica Argentina, com a França e com Nicaragua.

Um dos maiores obstaculos que até ultimamente se tem apresentado ao crescimento do commercio entre os Estados Unidos e os paizes latino-americanos tem sido a falta de communicações maritimas, e ao referir-se a este ponto, o Senhor Presidente MCKINLEY diz em sua já citada mensagem, o que segue:

“A importancia de nossa marinha mercante, como um meio de dar augmento ao nosso commercio e de fortalecer nossa condição de potencia maritima, deve chamar a attenção immediata do Congresso. Nosso desenvolvimento nacional não será inteiramente satisfactorio, emquanto nossas industrias não sejam acompanhadas de um progresso equivalente em nosso trafico maritimo.”

Todo o mundo reconhece a necessidade de estabelecer melhores communicações por vapor entre os Estados Unidos e a America latina. Como um exemplo, pode mencionar-se a reunião do Club de Manufactureiros de Philadelphia, que se verificou no dia 15 de Novembro proximo passado, com o fim de tratar do estabelecimento de uma linha de vapores entre aquelle porto e Rio de Janeiro.

O Capitão CORDEIRO DA GRAÇA, representante do Brazil no Congresso Commercial Internacional, pronunciou um discurso em favor do projecto, e, entre outras cousas, disse o que segue: “Vossa exportação não é menos importante que vossa importação, e não tendes fomentado aquella em vossos negocios com o Brazil, ainda que só se necessita dar uma vista de olhos para comprehender que grandes quantidades de vossos productos poderiam ser enviadas para o Brazil, si houvesse embarcações para conduzir-as e existisse um systema melhor de cambio internacional. O Brazil pode consumir grandes quantidades de vossos productos, e entre elles mencionarei a farinha, os oleos mineraes, o ferro, o aço, o carvão, os artigos de lençaria, machinas e artefactos em geral.”

O desenvolvimento nas construcções navaes no anno economico que terminou no dia 30 de Junho de 1899, segundo se vê pelo relatorio do Commissario da Navegação, foi verdadeiramente extraordinario. Na data mencionada estavam-se construindo nos estaleiros dos Estados Unidos, tanto para este paiz como para nações estrangeiras, mais de 50 navios de guerra, avaliados em mais de \$40,000,000. Em quanto ás embarcações mercantis havia em construcção mais de 200, cujo valor em conjuncto excede de \$30,000,000. Entre os navios mercantis cuja construcção foi resolvida em 1899 figuram tres dos maiores do mundo, que são os seguintes: O vapor *California* para a companhia de navegação conhecida com o nome de “American-Hawaiian,” que terá 12,000 toneladas de deslocção. Os outros dous vão a formar parte da frota da “Pacific Mail Steamship Company,” e terá 18,500 toneladas de deslocção.

Os interesses das estradas de ferro dos Estados Unidos mantiveram-se em 1899 á altura do progresso geral da nação. Desde 1890 não se tem visto uma actividade igual em materia de vias ferreas, pois a construc-

ção destas foi 50 por cento maior que em 1898, em cujo anno as estradas de ferro cobriam 186,396.32 milhas, ou seja uma extensão muita maior que a que têm todas as vias ferreas combinadas da Inglaterra, França, Allemanha e Russia. Nenhuma nação do mundo tem feito tanto progresso como os Estados Unidos no que toca á construcção de locomotivas, trilhos e material de estradas de ferro em geral. No anno passado exportaram-se artigos desta classe em quantidades consideraveis para muitos paizes, incluindo Inglaterra e suas colonias. Nada pode haver de mais significativo que o facto de terem-se pedido 60 locomotivas americanas para duas das primeiras estradas de ferro inglezas, a "Midland" e a "Great Western."

Em manufacturas de ferro e aço os Estados Unidos marcham á frente das outras nações, e hoje se exportam a todos os paizes do mundo os productos das fundições americanas.

Quanto á electricidade este paiz tem feito grande progresso em 1899, e sua exportação de effectos electricos augmentou de uma maneira surprehendente.

Em nenhum paiz desenvolveu-se no anno passado a producção de carvão de pedra como nos Estados Unidos, e não é de duvidar que antes de muito tempo deixarão atraz a Inglaterra, que tem sido e continúa sendo a primeira nação productora deste importante artigo de commercio. Tem-se calculado que a producção do dito combustivel na Grã Bretanha ascendeu, em 1899, a 220,000,000 toneladas, e nos Estados Unidos a 208,000,000 toneladas.

A producção de ouro e prata nos Estados Unidos no anno passado foi notavel. O primeiro dos dous metaes representou um valor de \$70,694,170, e o segundo de \$74,424,784. Quanto ao cobre, a quantidade produzida durante os seis mezes que terminaram o 30 de Junho de 1899 ascendeu, segundo dados obtidos pelo periodico "New York Metal Exchange," a 278,850,880 libras.

A exposição de productos e manufacturas appropriados á exportação, que se verificou na cidade de Philadelphia desde 14 de Setembro até 1º de Dezembro de 1899, foi summamente interessante, e com razão se crê que contribuirá a desenvolver o commercio entre os Estados Unidos e as republicas irmãs do continente. Ao mesmo tempo que a exposição, se celebrou a reunião de um Congresso Commercial Internacional, cujo objecto foi promover o commercio internacional. Grande interesse manifestaram todas as nações de America no dito Congresso, e não é de duvidar que dará os resultados mais satisfactorios e que corresponderá ás esperanças de seus promotores.

O desenvolvimento industrial da nação durante o anno passado tem sido a par do progresso agricola. A Secretaria da Agricultura tem ido estendendo sua esphera de acção mais e mais cada dia, e em 1899 se introduziram innovações em que antes não se tinha pensado. Espera-se que prompto se poderão cultivar nas novas possessões insulares da republica numerosas plantas tropicaes, entre outras as que



produzem a borracha. Com a aquisição das Philippinas e Porto Rico é evidente que os Estados Unidos verão d'aqui em diante produzir-se dentro de seus limites jurisdiccionaes muitos dos artigos que até hoje teem tido que importar dos paizes situados na zona torrida.

A immigração nos Estados Unidos durante o anno economico que terminou no dia 30 de Junho de 1899 foi maior que em qualquer dos annos anteriores, contando desde 1896, pois entraram no paiz, segundo dados officiaes, 311,715 immigrants.

O primeiro anno do dominio dos Estados Unidos nas ilhas de Hawaii foi muito prospero, segundo se vê pela comparação da renda e despeza do Governo, assim como pelo que produziram as alfandegas durante os ultimos seis mezes do anno economico que terminou no dia 30 de Junho de 1899.

Um acontecimento tristissimo veio a perturbar a nação ao terminar o anno de 1899, a morte do Vice-Presidente dos Estados Unidos, Mr. GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART. Homem de espirito levantado, de verdadeiro patriotismo e de grande experiencia nos negocios publicos, desempenhou o alto cargo a que foi chamado por seus concidadãos com dignidade, intelligencia e tacto. Como Presidente do Senado ganhou o respeito e apreço de todos os membros daquelle alto corpo, sem distincção de partidos politicos. A morte deste eminente homem de estado causou profunda impressão de um extremo a outro do paiz, como o exprime o Presidente MCKINLEY na proclamação que com esse motivo dirigio ao povo dos Estados Unidos.

O anno de 1899 tem presenciado a grande expansão territorial da Republica, em cujos dominios, como no imperio hespanhol do seculo XVI, nunca se põe o sol. Ao amparo de sua bandeira dão-se os productos de todas as zonas, e cerca de cem milhões de seres humanos vivem sob a protecção de suas leis. Nada offerece a antiga ou a moderna historia que possa comparar-se ao maravilhoso desenvolvimento dos Estados Unidos, que ha cem annos eram apenas uma potencia de terceira ordem e que são hoje uma das mais ricas, prosperas e poderosas nações do globo. O que serão ao terminar o seculo que começa, não alcança a imaginação a concebê-lo. Bem se comprehende que o primeiro Magistrado da Republica tenha posto fim a sua mensagem com estas palavras:

“Nunca, como no ultimo anno, havia tido esta nação tantos motivos de gratitude para com a Providencia pelos numerosos favores que lhe tem concedido, e perante os quaes nós inclinamos reverentes.”

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## CONGRESSO INTERNACIONAL MARITIMO.

De conformidade com a resolução adoptada no sétimo Congresso Internacional Maritimo que se reuniu em Bruxellas em 1898, o oitavo Congresso se reunirá em Pariz no dia 28 de Julho e suas sessões

durarão até o dia 3 de Agosto deste anno. Haverá nelle delegados da França e dos paizes estrangeiros das camaras de commercio, das cidades, das sociedades maritimas e de reboque, das companhias de estradas de ferro e de transportes.

Tambem serão admittidos aquelles individuos que antes da inauguração do Congresso manifestem seu desejo de assistir a elle. Os convites teem sido enviados pelos Srs. G. MASSON e P. HOLTZ, o primeiro Presidente da Camara de Commercio de Pariz, e o segundo Inspector Geral de Pontes e Caminhos. Estes cavalheiros acham-se á frente de uma grande commissão de distinctos cidadãos francezes a cujo cargo está o assumpto.

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## DIAGRAMMAS DO MOVIMENTO DO COMMERCIO AMERICANO.

Os diagrammas publicados no BOLETIM MENSAL de Janeiro deste anno indicam o movimento commercial entre os Estados Unidos e o Mexico, America Central e do Sul e as Antilhas e mostram o movimento, anno por anno, durante a decada, dos principaes artigos de commercio entre a America do Norte e do Sul, permittindo que se observe de um golpe de vista a marcha ascendente e descendente deste commercio.

Estes diagrammas foram preparados pela Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria da Fazenda e baseiam-se sob as tabellas compiladas de dados tomados de uma obra intitulada “O Commercio Americano,” que foi publicada em Junho de 1899 pela mesma Repartição, com o objecto de distribui-la entre o publico. O referido volume contem detalhes minuciosos sobre o commercio de cada um dos paizes da America do Sul e Central, do Mexico e das Antilhas durante um numero de annos, assim como sobre o commercio entre os referidos paizes e os Estados Unidos desde os primeiros annos do seculo, sendo portanto uma collecção de informações uteis para as pessoas interessadas nesta classe de assumptos.

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## BRAZIL.

### IMPORTAÇÕES DE FARINHA DE TRIGO.

A Secretaria das Republicas Americanas recebeu do Sr. THOMAS C. DAWSON, Secretario da Legação dos Estados Unidos no Rio de Janeiro, uma communicação, na qual se dão dados estatisticos sobre o commercio de farinha no Brazil. Segundo o “Monthly Summary” da Repartição de Estatisticas dos Estados Unidos, este paiz exportou para o Brazil durante o anno de 1898, 707,025 barricas de farinha de trigo. A estatistica da importação deste artigo para 1898 não foi publicada pelo Governo do Brazil, mas a para o anno de 1899 está sendo organisada.

Segundo os dados estatísticos já organizados, o total das importações de farinha de trigo durante os primeiros tres mezes de 1899 attingiu a 302,730 barricas, mas não se especificam as quantidades provenientes dos diversos paizes.

Quanto ao porto do Rio, os dados são mais detalhados. Durante os primeiros oito mezes de 1899 passaram pela alfandega do Rio 197,830 barricas de farinha, das quaes 111,870 vieram dos Estados Unidos, 66,800 da Republica Argentina, 17,090 do Uruguay, 1,475 da Austria, 388 da Grã Bretanha, 194 da Allemanha 11 da França. Si a proporção que existia entre as importações pelo porto do Rio e as pelos outros portos do Brazil durante os tres mezes findos em 31 de Março, se mantivesse a mesma durante os oito mezes findos em 31 de Agosto, o total das importações de farinha de trigo no Brazil deveria subir a 900,000 barricas.

Calculando as importações para 1898 no quadruplo das para o primeiro trimestre de 1899, se vê que foram importadas naquelle anno 1,212,000 barricas, e desta quantidade, 707,025 barricas, como já se tem dito, vieram dos Estados Unidos. Do resto, 495,000 barricas vieram dos paizes do Rio Prata e 10,000 barricas da Austria, Grã Bretanha, Italia e Allemanha, não sendo especificadas as quantidades provenientes de cada paiz.

O Sr. DAWSON diz que a investigação das importações de farinha nos varios portos do Brazil respeito á quantidade recebida dos Estados Unidos comparada com a proveniente dos paizes do Rio Prata, tem dado substancialmente os mesmos resultados. Além da farinha de trigo importada, no anno de 1898 foram fabricadas no Rio, de trigo importado do estrangeiro, 600,000 barricas de farinha.

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## CUBA.

### EXPOSIÇÃO DE PARIZ EM 1900.

O Sr. DEMETRIO ALBERTINI tem sido nomeado Secretario da Commissão, que terá a seu cargo a exhibição de Cuba na Exposição de Pariz de 1900. O Sr. ALBERTINI receberá o ordenado de \$250 por mez. O Secretario da Guerra tem applicado a quantia de \$25,000 para as despesas da exhibição, a qual deve ser paga das rendas de Cuba.

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## MEXICO.

### ABOLIÇÃO DOS DIREITOS DE EXPORTAÇÃO SOBRE O CAFÉ.

Sr. LIMANTOUR, Ministro da Fazenda do Mexico, submetten ultimamente á consideração do Congresso varias medidas de importancia que

foram approvadas pelo Presidente DIAZ. Referindo-se ás industrias nacionaes, o Ministro disse o que segue:

“A industria do café é talvez a unica de nossas industrias que não está em condição florescente e o Governo tem tomado passos com o objecto de determinar as causas da depreciação deste producto que constitue fonte importante de nossa riqueza nacional. Em outros tempos, não muito remotos, quando o caso era o contrario e os productores do café estavam realisando grandes lucros, ao passo que se dava certa depressão em algumas das outras industrias, a qual recahia sobre a condição do Thesouro, decretou-se um direito de exportação sobre o café que tem sido fonte de grande renda para o Governo.

“Este direito foi considerado como a justa contribuição que deviam fazer dos seus lucros os productores e exportadores deste producto em auxilio dos productores menos favorecidos, a quem cabia sustentar os encargos publicos nestas criticas circumstancias. Por isso parece justo agora que o Governo annulle este direito e deve-se observar que a abolição do direito durante o resto do exercicio corrente dará em resultado uma diminuição da renda federal na importancia de só \$200,000 e todavia alliviará muito os productores do café.”

Diz-se ter o Congresso Nacional já annullado os direitos de exportação sobre o café e d'aqui em diante não se cobrarão direitos de exportação sobre o café mexicano.

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## PERU.

### GUANO NAS ILHAS DE MAZORCA.

O “American Fertilizer” correspondente ao mez de Dezembro de 1899 diz que foram descobertos recentemente nas Ilhas de Mazorca depositos de guano peruano de uma qualidade superior. Essas ilhas estão situadas ao norte de Calláo, n'uma região secca e é por isso que o guano tem podido conservar uma grande porcentagem de nitrogenio. Grandes quantidades deste adubo foram encontradas com 13½ e 14 por cento de nitrogenio e de 12 a 13 por cento de acido phosphorico.

A analyse de varias amostras deste adubo feita pelo Sr. D. CRISPO, dá pela media 13.95 por cento de nitrogenio e 12.08 por cento de acido phosphorico. Os depositos de guano cobrem uma area consideravel e têm seis pés de profundidade. O guano apresenta caracteristicos excellentes. É secco, pouco pesado e de uma côr clara, exhalando um cheiro forte. A primeira remessa deste producto chegou ultimamente a Londres no vapor *Lorraine*. Si os depositos de guano realisarem a expectativa, produzirão grande renda para a republica.

## ESTADOS UNIDOS.

## CONDIÇÃO DAS COLHEITAS.

Segundo o boletim publicado pela Secretaria da Agricultura correspondente a 3 de Janeiro, a condição da colheita de trigo no mez de Dezembro era como segue: "O tempo foi geralmente favoravel durante o mez para o trigo de inverno, segundo as informações recebidas da maior parte dos Estados. As sementeas teem-se desenvolvido muito bem e promettem muito, excepto no Estado de Michigan e em algumas partes do Estado de Ohio. No primeiro destes Estados o trigo não se desenvolveu satisfactoriamente, e no segundo tambem não está em boas condições para o inverno."

Teme-se que o máo tempo em fins de Dezembro e em principios de Janeiro tem causado algum damno ás sementeas que não estavam protegidas pela neve, especialmente em algumas partes de Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana e Illinois, ao mesmo tempo que as geadas alternando com o degêlo davam resultados desfavoraveis para as colheitas em West Virginia e Missouri. Nos Estados da costa do Pacifico o trigo acha-se em condições excellentes. Receberam-se informações de que a mosca conhecida com o nome de *Hessian fly* tinha causado algum damno, mas este foi insignificante fora de Michigan, Pennsylvania e Tennessee.

## FABRICAÇÃO DE LUVAS.

França, que sempre tem sido considerada como o centro da industria de luvas, tem descoberto, segundo se diz em um artigo publicado no "Bulletin Mensuel de la Chambre de Commerce française de New York," que conta com um rival formidavel nos Estados Unidos.

A fabricação de luvas continúa fazendo grandes progressos neste paiz e na actualidade as fabricas não podem satisfazer os pedidos que recebem. Sómente tem podido satisfazer o 80 por cento dos que deviam haver sido entregues em Julho, Agosto e Setembro, e todavia estão trabalhando para suppril-os.

Entre as varias classes de luvas que se fabricam nos Estados Unidos, a que tem mais procura por agora é a conhecida com o nome de "mocha." Os americanos teem um secreto para a preparação destas pelles que até hoje os europeós não teem podido descobrir. Estes ultimos não possuem um artigo tão delgado, suave e flexivel. Muitos fabricantes inglezes e francezes compram as ditas pelles, já preparadas e coloridas, nos mercados da America, e estas vovem transformadas em luvas elegantemente acabadas. Em quanto a este ultimo, diz o artigo em referencia, os francezes teem todavia a superioridade sobre os americanos.

O preço da pelle de "mocha" sem curtir é muito mais elevado agora

que tem sido no passado. Estas pelles se vendem presentemente ao preço de 74 e 75 centavos cada uma, o qual é um augmento de 100 por cento sobre os preços de 1898, que variaram de 34 a 40 centavos. Já se teem feito numeros pedidos de luvas de “mocha” para o outono de 1900. É provavel que a alta no preço continue, e não nos surpreenderia ver que prompto estas pelles se estivessem vendendo a 90 centavos e até 1 dollar cada uma. É preciso dizer que a producção de “mocha” se limita a um milhão de pelles approximadamente e que apezar da crescente procura, é quasi impossivel augmentar a producção. Por outra parte os francezes, inglezes e allemães, que desde ha dous annos estão fazendo ensaios com este artigo, tomam uma quarta parte da producção que antes era destinada exclusivamente aos Estados Unidos.

Nota-se que desde ha algum tempo se estão usando outra vez as luvas de pelle de Suecia, e as informações obtidas de todos os principaes importadores confirmam o facto de que a demanda se faz geral, demanda que era muito insignificante ha tres ou quatro annos. Isto pode explicar-se pela escassez da pelle de “mocha,” pois a de Suecia é a que se lhe parece mais.

#### EXPOSITORES AMERICANOS EM PARIZ.

O Commissario General dos Estados Unidos á Exposição de Pariz, Mr. PECK, tem publicado uma lista dos principaes expositores americanos que teem acceito o espaço que lhes tem sido assignado. A lista contem 1,095 nomes de pessoas, casas de commercio e corporações, mas não figuram n’ella os de expositores de productos agricolas e mineiros ou de obras litterarias e scientificas, bellas artes, etc. Uma lista desta classe deveria conter como 7,000 nomes. No catalogo official que se está preparando apparecerá uma lista completa dividida em grupos e classes.

#### FALSIFICAÇÃO DE MARCAS DE FABRICA.

Varios fabricantes de Nova Inglaterra estão fazendo esforços no sentido de averiguar quem são as pessoas que teem introduzido nos mercados sul-americanos uma imitação de suas flannels. Diz-se tambem que artigos de outra classe teem sido imitados por fabricantes européos que os enviam principalmente aos mercados da America do Sul e do Oriente.

O assumpto em questão foi posto em conhecimento dos representantes de um fabricante dos Estados Unidos por um correspondente em Valparaíso. Este ultimo conhecia os productos da fabrica e lhe causou surpresa a deterioração dos effectos que levavam seu nome. Ao examinal-os observou que se haviam feito ligeiras alterações na maneira de escrever algumas das palavras no rotulo afim de evitar uma accusação por fraude, alteração que não podiam perceber as pessoas que não conheciam o idioma inglez.

Está-se tratando com diligencia de averiguar quem são os falsificadores e já se tem descoberto que as flanelas falsificadas foram feitas na Europa.

Ha alguns annos varios dos consules americanos na Europa chamaram a attenção do Governo de Washington a procedimentos desta mesma classe. O assumpto de que agora se trata pode assumir um caracter internacional.

#### PRODUÇÃO DE ASSUCAR EM HAWAII.

Em um relatorio que Mr. HAROLD SEWALL, ex-Ministro dos Estados Unidos em Hawaii, dirigio de Honolulu á Secretaria de Estado, diz que a produção total de assucar naquellas ilhas durante a estação de 1899 foi de 304,603 toneladas, ou 50,000 toneladas em excesso da quantidade calculada pelo celebre estatístico allemão, LICHT.

As importações na ilha no anno de 1899 representaram um valor de \$15,945,349, ou um augmento de \$5,973,753 sobre as do anno precedente.

#### NOVO REGULAMENTO DE VALES POSTAES.

No dia 2 de Janeiro começaram a vigorar nos Estados Unidos tres differentes tarifas de vales internacionaes. A primeira refere-se aos vales pagaveis em Cuba e em Porto Rico. A segunda é de preços especiaes para vales pagaveis em Mexico. A terceira contem os preços internacionaes ordinarios, taes como teem sido publicados nas leis e regulamentos postaes.

A segunda tarifa, que é nova, foi feita mediante uma convenção celebrada em Setembro proximo passado, na qual se auctorisa a permuta directa de vales postaes com a Republica do Mexico. A agencia de correios de Laredo, Texas, funcionará d'aqui em diante como agencia de permutas internacionaes por parte dos Estados Unidos, e a agencia de Nuevo Laredo desempenhará a mesma função no que se relaciona ao Mexico. A importancia dos vales emittidos nos Estados Unidos deve ser exprimida em moeda americana, e a dos vales emittidos no Mexico em moeda mexicana.

#### NOTAS MISCELLANEAS.

A Repartição de Navegação do Departamentô de Marinha dos Estados Unidos tem publicado uma lista dos navios que formam a frota do paiz, cujo numero ascende a 312. Na dita lista estão incluídos varios barcos capturados em Cuba e nas Ilhas Philippinas, mas ainda excluindo estes, é muito notavel o augmento nos navios de guerra durante os ultimos dous annos.

O armazem de refrigeração que o Governo dos Estados Unidos vai construir em Manila terá 245 pés por cada um de seus lados, com 2 andares. Poderá conter 12,000 rezes mortas entre gado vaccum e carneiros, 100 toneladas de toucinho, 50 toneladas de manteiga, 100 tone-

ladas de legumes e uma machina de fazer gelo que poderá fabricar 40 toneladas por dia.

A collecção anthropologica da Universidade de Yale foi augmentada ultimamente por outra collecção muito valiosa, que incluye antiguidades do Mexico e de Guatemala. A collecção comprehende 350 amostras provenientes de Sempoala, no Estado de Vera Cruz, Mexico, e de Tacala, em Guatemala. Liga-se importancia especial ás antiguidades de Guatemala.

Trata-se de fazer experiencias nas Ilhas de Hawaii com um novo remedio para o tratamento da lepra, que, segundo se diz, tem obtido notaveis resultados. É o producto de um arbusto de Venezuela, introduzido na ilha pelo Dr. CARMICHAEL, facultativo ao serviço dos Estados Unidos, que tem recebido instrucções do Governo de Washington para fazer as referidas experiencias.

O uso a que ultimamente se tem dedicado os automoveis é rebocar barcos nos canaes. O numero do "Exporters and Importers' Journal" correspondente a 9 de Dezembro de 1899 diz que se está construindo em Hatton, Connecticut, a um custo de \$4,000, um automovel que poderá rebocar de 6 a 10 barcos á vez no canal do Erie.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIA.

Nesta secção do Boletim Mensal se tratará dos livros e folhetos enviados á Secretaria das Republicas Americanas que se referem a assumptos de interesse aos paizes da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

Mr. GEORGE A. NEWELL, Commissario de Mineração do Estado de Michigan, no seu relatorio annual correspondente ao anno de 1898, diz o que segue respeito á producção de mineraes no Estado durante aquelle anno: "Si fosse fundido em trilhos de aço, pesando 50 libras o pé, todo o ferro produzido no Estado de Michigan neste anno (1898), se poderia com elles dar uma vez e meia a volta ao mundo. Si o cobre refinado extrahido das minas fosse estendido em arame de telephono, No. 12, se poderia com elle dar a volta ao mundo  $29\frac{1}{5}$  vezes. Si as barricas de sal que se produziu no Estado em 1898 fossem juntas umas ás outras, fariam uma linha ininterrupta de 1,500 milhas de extensão. Calculo o valor total dos mineraes produzidos no Estado durante o anno em \$38,825,000. Desta quantia, \$18,450,847 correspondem ao valor do ferro, \$16,834,670 ao do cobre e \$2,686,272 ao do sal."

O periodico "Harpers' Weekly" contem, em seu numero de 9 de Dezembro de 1899, illustrações que representam modelos dos barcos de guerra dos Estados Unidos, os quaes serão exhibidos na Exposição de Pariz. Ha em todo 25 destes modelos e abrangem os melhores typos de navios de guerra que se encontram hoje em serviço activo.



# BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

## BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

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VOL. VIII.

JANVIER 1900.

No. 1.

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### PROGRÈS DES ETATS-UNIS PENDANT L'ANNÉE 1899.

Le progrès des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899 a été phénoménal. Son commerce à l'étranger s'est développé d'une manière prodigieuse, et il paraît incroyable que les exportations pendant la dite année aient dépassé de plus de un billion de dollars les importations et les exportations réunies de 1870. L'importation per capita fut 20 pour cent moindre, et l'exportation 58 pour cent de plus que celles de 1870. L'exportation des produits agricoles s'est élevée à la somme énorme de \$784,776,142, et celle des articles manufacturés à \$339,592,146.

La condition dans laquelle se trouvent les finances du Trésor est on ne peut plus satisfaisante, car, d'après les données qui se trouvent dans le rapport du Ministre des Finances, il y aura pendant la présente année fiscale une balance disponible de 40,000,000 de dollars. Dans son dernier message au Congrès des Etats-Unis, le Président MCKINLEY, en faisant allusion à la situation fiscale de la nation, s'exprimait ainsi :

“L'excellente condition dans laquelle se trouvent les finances du Trésor est montrée par le fait qu'il existait en caisse, le 1<sup>er</sup> décembre 1899, une balance comptante disponible de \$278,004,837.72, dont \$239,744,905.56 en monnaie d'or et en lingots. La confiance qui règne dans le pays a porté le peuple à faire davantage usage de la monnaie d'or, et les droits de douane sont maintenant presque entièrement payés avec ce métal.”

Les prédictions et les espérances pour la prospérité et l'agrandissement de la nation ont été réalisées en 1899 d'une façon remarquable. On arrive facilement à cette conclusion en examinant l'immensité du trafic et des affaires en général pendant les douze mois qui viennent de

s'écouler. La hausse du prix des principaux produits, ainsi que l'augmentation des valeurs de toutes espèces, ont été si énormes qu'on n'aurait jamais pu les prévoir. L'augmentation des salaires payés aux travailleurs dans les usines, ainsi que les commandes pour six mois d'avance faites, vers la fin de l'année antérieure, aux fabricants des Etats-Unis, sont des faits dignes d'être notés. Si on prend comme exemple l'immense trafic des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899, les liquidations des banques, on trouvera que ces dernières ont une balance énorme de \$93,300,000,000, soit 36 pour cent de plus que pendant l'année 1898.

En présence de la prospérité générale pendant l'année 1899, on peut facilement comprendre que les faillites ont été en moins grande quantité que pendant les années précédentes, et d'après l'excellente revue commerciale et économique, "Bradstreet," il n'y a eu seulement 9,550 faillites, soit 17 pour cent de moins que pendant l'année 1898.

Le commerce entre les Etats-Unis et les Républiques Latines Américaines a augmenté d'une façon remarquable en 1899, et quoiqu'il n'ait pas encore atteint le degré de développement auquel on s'attend, il est évident qu'il a une tendance de s'accroître chaque jour davantage. Un grand nombre de produits provenant des manufactures américaines, qui jadis étaient presque inconnus sur les marchés de l'Amérique Centrale et du Sud, soutiennent la concurrence avantageusement avec les produits européens du même genre. Parmi ces produits, on peut remarquer que les articles en cuir manufacturés, qui jadis provenaient presque exclusivement d'Europe, sont aujourd'hui importés en grande quantité des Etats-Unis.

La chaussure américaine est très demandée dans l'Amérique Latine, étant préférée dans plusieurs pays à l'article français qui, pendant un grand nombre d'années, occupait la première place. Le développement atteint par cette industrie aux Etats-Unis est dû à ce que cet article est fabriqué ici, pour le même prix, beaucoup mieux que dans d'autres pays. Actuellement, les Etats-Unis n'importent la chaussure d'aucun pays, tandis qu'ils exportent cet article en Angleterre, en France, en Allemagne, au Canada, dans l'Amérique Centrale, dans l'Amérique du Sud, en Australie et dans d'autres pays. D'après les données publiées par le Bureau des Statistiques du Ministère des Finances, les exportations de chaussures pendant les 10 mois terminés au mois d'avril de l'année passée se sont élevées à \$2,049,047, et pendant la même période de l'année antérieure elles ne se sont montées qu'à \$1,439,512.

Les exportations des machines américaines de toutes espèces aux pays du Sud firent grand progrès pendant l'année passée, et c'est un fait avéré partout que les machines fabriquées aux Etats-Unis sont les meilleures du monde.

L'exportation des cotonnades américaines qui sont avantageusement connues depuis longtemps sur les marchés du continent américain a augmenté considérablement pendant l'année 1899, et on ne voit pas pour-

quoi elles ne prendraient pas la place occupée par les produits européens, car elles sont indiscutablement supérieures. La sériculture s'est considérablement développée pendant l'année dernière. Il existait, au mois de janvier 1899, 861 soieries établies dans 28 des Etats de l'Union.

En 1899 des traités de réciprocité ont été conclus entre la Grande-Bretagne et les Etats-Unis, concernant le commerce entre les Etats-Unis et les Colonies Britanniques dans la Mer des Antilles; des traités ont aussi été conclus avec la République Argentine, la France et la République de Nicaragua.

Un des plus grands obstacles qui ait empêché jusqu'ici le développement commercial entre les Etats-Unis et les pays de l'Amérique Latine a été le manque de communications maritimes. Le Président MCKINLEY en traitant cette question dans son message déjà mentionné s'exprime ainsi:

“L'importance d'une marine marchande américaine afin d'étendre notre commerce et d'affermir notre pouvoir sur mer invite l'action immédiate du Congrès. Notre développement national restera imparfait et insuffisant aussi longtemps que l'accroissement remarquable de notre commerce intérieur ne sera pas accompagné par les progrès maritimes.”

Tout le monde comprend la nécessité d'établir un service de bateaux à vapeur entre les Etats-Unis et l'Amérique Latine afin de faciliter les communications. Dans une réunion du cercle des fabricants de Philadelphie qui eut lieu le 15 novembre dernier, dans le but d'étudier la question de l'établissement d'une ligne de bateaux à vapeur entre ce port et Rio-Janeiro, le Capitaine CORDEIRA de GRACA, représentant du Brésil au Congrès Commercial International, prononça un discours en faveur du projet, dans le cours duquel il s'exprima ainsi: “Votre commerce d'exportation est aussi important que celui d'importation, et cependant vous n'avez pas développé le premier dans vos transactions avec le Brésil. Un seul coup d'œil pourrait cependant vous faire comprendre que vous pourriez expédier au Brésil une plus grande quantité de vos produits, s'il y avait des vaisseaux pour les transporter et s'il existait un meilleur système d'échange international. Le Brésil peut consommer une grande quantité de vos produits, et parmi eux je dois mentionner la farine, les huiles minérales, le fer, l'acier, le charbon, les cotonnades, les machines et autres produits manufacturés en général.”

D'après le rapport du Commissaire Général de la Marine, les progrès qui ont été faits dans les constructions navales pendant l'année fiscale terminée le 30 juin 1899 ont été vraiment remarquables, attendu que, à cette époque, on était en train de construire, dans les chantiers de constructions navales des Etats-Unis, pour ce pays et l'étranger, plus de 50 vaisseaux de guerre ayant ensemble une valeur de plus de \$40,000,000, sans compter le blindage et l'armement. À la même époque on a construit aussi plus de deux cents navires marchands dont la valeur totale s'est montée à plus de \$30,000,000. Parmi les navires de la marine marchande dont la construction a été commandée en 1899 sont

compris trois des plus grands vaisseaux du monde: Le *California*, pour la Compagnie de Navigation "American-Hawaiian," dont les dimensions sont 450 pieds de long, 50 pieds de largeur et 12,000 tonnes de déplacement; les deux autres ont été commandés pour la "Pacific Mail S. S. Co." et ont un déplacement de 18,500 tonnes.

En 1899 le progrès fait dans la construction des chemins de fer des Etats-Unis a été à la hauteur du progrès général de la nation. Depuis 1890 on n'avait jamais vu une activité pareille à celle qui s'est déployée pendant l'année 1899; l'augmentation des voies ferrées ayant été 50 pour cent plus grande qu'en 1898, quand les chemins de fer couvraient une étendue de 186,396.32 milles ou une étendue plus grande que celle de toutes les voies ferrées réunies de la France, l'Allemagne, l'Angleterre et la Russie. Aucune nation du monde n'a fait autant de progrès que les Etats-Unis en ce qui concerne la construction des locomotives, rails et le matériel des chemins de fer en général. L'exportation du matériel des chemins de fer pendant l'année passée a été considérable et s'est étendue dans divers pays, y compris l'Angleterre et ses colonies. Rien ne peut être plus significatif que le fait des deux principaux chemins de fer anglais, le *Midland* et le *Great Western*, qui ont fait une commande pour 60 locomotives américaines.

Quant à la fabrication des articles en fer et en acier, les Etats-Unis sont à la tête des autres nations et exportent actuellement dans tous les pays du monde les produits de ses fonderies.

En ce qui concerne l'électricité, le pays a fait des progrès prodigieux pendant l'année 1899, l'exportation du matériel électrique ayant augmenté d'une façon surprenante.

Dans aucun pays on n'a extrait autant de charbon qu'aux Etats-Unis pendant l'année qui vient de s'écouler, et on ne doute pas que dans peu de temps ils surpasseront l'Angleterre qui a été et continue à être la nation qui produit la plus grande quantité de cet important et utile article de commerce. On a calculé que la production de ce combustible en Angleterre s'est élevée, en 1899, à 220,000,000 tonnes, tandis qu'aux Etats-Unis elle ne s'est montée qu'à 208,000,000 tonnes.

La production de l'or et de l'argent aux Etats-Unis pendant l'année dernière a été aussi très remarquable, le premier de ces deux métaux représentant une valeur de \$70,694,170 et le deuxième \$74,424,784. La quantité de cuivre produite pendant les six mois terminés le 30 juin 1899 s'est élevée, d'après les chiffres donnés par le journal "New York Metal Exchange," à 278,850,880 livres.

L'exposition des produits de toutes espèces adaptés à l'exportation eut lieu dans la ville de Philadelphie du 14 septembre au 1<sup>er</sup> décembre 1899. Cette exposition fut des plus intéressantes, et on croit qu'elle contribuera au développement du trafic entre les Etats-Unis et les Républiques du continent. Dans le but d'encourager le commerce international, le Congrès Commercial International fut convoqué en connexion avec le Musée Commercial de Philadelphie. Toutes les nations de l'Amérique manifestèrent le plus grand intérêt dans ce Con-

grès, et on ne doute pas que le résultat qui en dérivera sera des plus satisfaisants et réalisera les espérances des promoteurs.

Le développement industriel de la nation pendant l'année 1899 a été à la hauteur de son progrès agricole. Le Département de l'Agriculture a étendu sa sphère d'activité de plus en plus, et en 1899 a introduit des innovations auxquelles on n'avait jamais songé auparavant. On espère qu'on pourra cultiver bientôt dans les nouvelles possessions insulaires de la République un grand nombre de plantes tropicales, parmi lesquelles sont les arbres à caoutchouc. Il est évident qu'avec l'acquisition des Philippines et de Puerto Rico, les Etats-Unis verront se produire dans l'étendue de sa juridiction une grande quantité d'articles qui, jusqu'ici, ils avaient été obligés d'importer des pays tropicaux.

L'immigration aux Etats-Unis pendant l'année fiscale terminée le 30 juin 1899 a été plus grande que celles des années antérieures depuis 1896, le nombre d'immigrants s'étant élevé, d'après les données officielles, à 311,715.

La première année de la domination des Etats-Unis sur les Iles Sandwich fut très prospère, comme on peut le voir en comparant les recettes et les dépenses du Gouvernement et les produits des droits de douane pendant les derniers six mois de l'année fiscale terminée le juin 1899.

Vers la fin de l'année 1899 une perte douloureuse est venue affliger le pays; c'est la mort de Mr. GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART, Vice-Président des Etats-Unis. C'était un homme d'un esprit élevé, un vrai patriote, de grande expérience dans les affaires publiques, et qui remplit avec dignité, intelligence et tact les hautes fonctions auxquelles il avait été élevé par la volonté nationale. Comme Président du Sénat, il sut s'attirer le respect et l'estime de tous les membres du Corps Législatif, sans distinction de partis.

La mort de cet éminent homme d'Etat fit une profonde impression dans tout le pays, comme le dit si bien le Président McKINLEY dans sa proclamation au peuple des Etats-Unis.

Pendant l'année 1899, la nation a vu l'expansion de son territoire et elle peut dire, comme l'Espagne du 16<sup>ème</sup> siècle, "le soleil ne se couche jamais sur nos domaines." Sous la protection de son drapeau on peut recueillir les fruits de toutes les zones, et près de 100,000,000 d'âmes vivent sous l'égide de ses lois. Il n'y a rien dans l'histoire ancienne ni moderne qui puisse être comparé au merveilleux développement des Etats-Unis qui, il y a cent ans, étaient à peine une nation de 3<sup>ème</sup> ordre et qui, aujourd'hui, sont une nation des plus riches, des plus prospères, et des plus puissantes du globe; ce qu'elle sera à la fin du siècle qui commence, l'imagination ne peut le concevoir. Aussi peut-on comprendre pourquoi le Président de la République ait terminé son message par ces mots:

"Jamais cette nation n'a eu d'aussi abondantes raisons que pendant l'année passée pour remercier Dieu pour les nombreuses bénédictions et bienfaits qu'il a versés sur nous et pour lesquels nous lui adressons notre reconnaissance révérencieuse."

## EXPORTATIONS DES MANUFACTURES DES ETATS-UNIS EN EUROPE.

Après les années prospères de 1897 et de 1898, le progrès des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899 a continué, en augmentant dans des proportions phénoménales. L'expansion de la nation, commercialement parlant, a été sans précédent et presque inattendue. La prospérité actuelle de la nation est due à son intégrité commerciale et aux conditions excellentes dans lesquelles se trouvent les industries et les finances du pays. Les industries licites n'ont jamais été la cause de paniques monétaires aux Etats-Unis, mais jadis ont souffert à cause des "booms" illicites des spéculateurs.

Trois industries servent mieux que toutes les autres, peut-être, à démontrer la prospérité de la nation, ce sont: l'industrie du fer et de l'acier, le commerce des tissus et la joaillerie. En prenant pour base de comparaison chacune de ces industries en particulier ou ensemble, on trouve que la prospérité des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899 a été plus grande qu'elle ne l'avait jamais été. Il semblerait que la première industrie citée fut la fondation de toute l'activité industrielle, et ce qui s'est accompli dans cette branche est presque merveilleux. Le commerce des tissus sert de base pour démontrer les conditions industrielles du pays, indiquant les demandes pour les nécessités. Les demandes des tissus ont commencé à augmenter et continuent à croître en rapport avec le développement des manufactures de fer et d'acier. Le commerce de la bijouterie représente les demandes pour les articles de luxe dont très peu peuvent être classés comme articles de nécessité, et beaucoup de personnes peuvent s'en passer.

Il n'y a pas très longtemps, les Etats-Unis pouvaient à peine suppléer à leurs propres besoins, en ce qui concerne les articles manufacturés, et les exportations étaient comparativement peu importantes. L'augmentation remarquable qui s'est produite dans les exportations des articles manufacturés de ce pays aux pays du vieux monde, spécialement aux nations européennes, justifie le BULLETIN MENSUEL d'appeler l'attention des autres Républiques de l'Union internationale sur les ressources des Etats-Unis et sur l'extension de ses produits manufacturés en Europe. Le total des exportations du pays pendant l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1899 s'est élevé à \$1,204,123,134; les articles manufacturés étant évalués à \$338,667,794. Du total des exportations, une valeur de \$936,781,169 fut expédiée en Europe.

A ce sujet, il est peut-être bon de constater que la valeur totale des articles manufacturés exportés des Etats-Unis pendant la décade commençant en 1889 et finissant en 1898, a augmenté de 110 pour cent, tandis qu'en examinant les exportations des manufactures des autres pays on n'a constaté aucun pour cent d'augmentation pendant la même période. La Grande-Bretagne ne montre aucune augmentation appréciable dans les exportations de ses produits manufacturés depuis

l'année 1890. L'augmentation des exportations de la France, pendant cette période, était d'environ 10 pour cent; de l'Allemagne, 13 pour cent; de la Suisse, 6 pour cent; de la Hollande, 3 pour cent, pendant que l'Autriche-Hongrie et la Russie montrent une perte.

Les exportations des manufactures des Etats-Unis en 1899 se sont montées à environ trois fois les exportations des mêmes articles pendant l'année 1879. C'est un fait aussi intéressant que digne de remarque, qu'un examen des statistiques fiscales des Etats-Unis montre que les pays d'Europe, où les manufactures ont été établies depuis longtemps, fournissent un marché aussi bon pour les marchandises manufacturées des Etats-Unis que les pays où les manufactures n'ont pas atteint un très grand développement.

Le plus grand progrès qui ait été fait dans l'exportation des manufactures aux Etats-Unis, a été en métaux, principalement les articles en fer et en acier. En 1880 les exportations de ce genre se montaient à \$14,716,524, et en 1899 elles s'élevaient à \$93,715,951, ou plus de six fois autant. D'un autre côté les importations des articles en fer et en acier manufacturés se montaient, en 1880, à \$71,266,699, pendant qu'en 1899 la valeur de ces importations s'élevait seulement à \$12,098,239, ou environ un sixième de celle de 1880. Cette classe d'exportations comprend les rails d'acier, les matériaux de construction en fer et en acier, les machines de 1<sup>re</sup> classe, les machines à condre, les bicyclettes, les machines à écrire, les instruments scientifiques, les locomotives, les clous en fil de fer, les machines agricoles. La valeur des rails d'acier exportées en 1889 était \$235,387; cette valeur s'est élevée en 1898 à \$4,613,376, et en 1899 à \$5,298,125. De ce dernier chiffre, l'Europe en a pris un dixième, soit une valeur de \$531,753. En ce qui concerne les machines agricoles, principalement les faux, les moissonneuses, les char-rués et les cultivateurs dont les exportations en 1899 se sont élevées à \$12,432,197, une valeur de \$7,442,654 fut expédiée dans les pays européens comme suit: au Royaume Uni de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande, \$1,372,393; en France, \$1,781,659; en Allemagne, \$1,646,700; dans les autres pays, \$261,891.

Les exportations des matériaux de construction en fer et en acier, scies et outils, se sont élevées en 1889 à \$1,700,390 et en 1899 ont atteint le chiffre de \$7,842,372. Dans ce dernier total, les pays européens sont compris pour une valeur de \$3,747,974, la part de la Grande-Bretagne étant \$1,833,369; la France, \$269,157, et l'Allemagne, \$866,872. Le total des machines à condre exportées en 1889 s'élevait à une valeur de \$2,247,875, dans ce chiffre les pays européens sont compris pour \$1,179,705. En 1899 les exportations de ces articles se sont montées à \$3,264,344, dont \$1,908,732 pour les pays européens; la part de la Grande-Bretagne étant \$956,424; celle de la France, \$95,953, et celle de l'Allemagne, \$688,980.

En 1899 la valeur des machines à écrire vendues aux marchands étrangers s'est montée à \$2,449,205, la Grande-Bretagne en prenant pour une valeur de \$1,054,060; la France pour \$167,350; l'Allemagne

pour \$507,000, et les autres pays pour une valeur de \$369,608. La valeur des bicyclettes et leurs parties expédiées à l'étranger en 1899 s'est montée à \$5,753,880; les chiffres suivants donnant la valeur des exportations de cet article dans les pays européens: la Grande-Bretagne, \$868,190; la France, \$469,381; l'Allemagne, \$1,117,352; les autres pays, \$1,365,860, soit un total de \$3,830,783 pour les marchés européens seulement. Le développement de cette industrie et du commerce des machines à écrire, pendant les dix années qui viennent de s'écouler, a été phénoménal. Les exportations des bicyclettes seules, ont surpassé, en 1899, celles des wagons de chemins de fer et des autres véhicules exportés pendant la même année. Les instruments et les appareils scientifiques, y compris les instruments et appareils télégraphiques, les téléphones et autres appareils électriques, ont pris un très grand développement.

Avant 1889, les exportations de cette classe de manufactures n'avaient jamais atteint le chiffre de \$1,000,000, tandis que pendant l'année 1899 elles se sont élevées à \$4,399,180. Dans ce chiffre est comprise la somme de \$2,090,620 le total des chargements pour l'Europe étant divisé comme suit: \$950,426 pour la Grande-Bretagne; \$454,818 pour la France; \$412,995 pour l'Allemagne, et \$272,381 pour les autres pays.

Quant aux exportations de cuivre (autre que le métal brut), elles ont augmenté considérablement. On en a expédié à l'étranger, en 1899, pour une valeur de \$34,476,343, dont une valeur de \$34,269,822 a été expédiée dans les pays européens suivants: Grande-Bretagne, \$9,668,604; la France, \$6,673,345; l'Allemagne, \$6,208,095; les autres pays, \$11,719,778. Les montres et les pendules prises ensemble ont augmenté graduellement; les montres surpassant en popularité les pendules. Les exportations de ces articles se sont montées en 1899 à \$1,863,431, la Grande-Bretagne étant comprise dans ce chiffre pour la somme de \$652,177.

Les exportations des fabriques de coton, particulièrement les cotonnades, ont augmenté d'une façon satisfaisante; le nombre de mètres exportés étant pour 1889, 118,453,191; pour 1898, 270,507,811 mètres, et pour 1899, 412,004,055 mètres. La valeur des mètres exportés en 1899 a été évaluée à \$18,969,897, et les exportations à la Grande-Bretagne se sont élevées à \$628,445 et celles dans les autres pays à \$931,448, soit un total de \$1,559,893 pour l'Europe. En 1899 la Chine a pris plus d'une moitié des exportations du coton manufacturé, soit \$9,823,253 pendant que l'Asie et l'Océanie en ont reçu pour une valeur de \$1,873,331. Pendant l'année fiscale 1899, les exportations des vêtements en coton, et de tous les cotons manufacturés, se sont élevées à une valeur de \$4,598,017; les achats de la Grande-Bretagne se montant à \$430,978, pendant que ceux des autres pays européens se sont élevés à \$312,738 et ceux d'Asie et d'Océanie à \$543,494.

En 1899, on a exporté 37,120,912 livres de cuir pour semelles, évaluées à \$6,280,904; de ces totaux, la Grande-Bretagne a pris 31,381,148 livres pour \$5,168,588, et les autres pays européens 3,452,197 livres pour une valeur de \$639,685. Tous les autres cuirs exportés se sont montés à



une valeur de \$13,444,569; de ce montant, l'Europe en a pris pour une valeur de \$12,195,045, particulièrement l'Angleterre pour une valeur de \$9,595,306; la France, pour \$385,087; l'Allemagne, pour \$954,347; le reste de l'Europe, pour \$1,260,305.

La chaussure fabriquée aux Etats-Unis est très appréciée dans toutes les parties du monde, les exportations en 1889 montant à \$585,902 et en 1899 à \$2,711,385. Les exportations en Europe, pendant l'année dernière, ont été évaluées à \$703,695, divisées comme suit: la Grande-Bretagne, \$525,242; la France, \$39,664; l'Allemagne, \$79,578; les autres pays, \$59,841. La valeur des exportations des meubles en 1899 s'est montée à \$3,571,375, l'Europe étant comprise dans ce chiffre pour une somme de \$1,563,526. Dans ce dernier total, la Grande Bretagne est comprise pour \$1,083,625; la France, pour \$74,952; l'Allemagne, pour \$173,741, et les autres pays européens, pour \$231,208. Le total des exportations des munitions navales s'est élevé en 1899 à \$9,982,955; l'Europe étant comprise dans ce chiffre pour une valeur de \$8,597,253. Presque une moitié du total européen a été prise par la Grande-Bretagne qui en a acheté pour une valeur de \$4,173,130, tandis que l'autre moitié, montant à \$1,735,647, a été prise par l'Allemagne. Les manufactures des produits chimiques des Etats-Unis font beaucoup de progrès, mais peut-être sont-ils moins rapides que ceux faits par les autres industries. Les exportations en 1899 se sont montées à \$10,995,289. Presque deux tiers des chargements des huiles raffinées ou manufacturées dont 502,257,455 gallons furent exportés en 1889, et 805,956,345 gallons en 1899 étaient pour les pays européens. Pendant l'année 1899, la Grande-Bretagne a acheté 212,734,107 gallons évalués à \$12,023,768; la France, 12,012,873 gallons évalués à \$1,103,258; l'Allemagne, 128,084,787 gallons évalués à \$6,542,815, et les autres pays européens, 253,544,389 gallons évalués à \$13,554,069. Le prix de cette huile, par gallon, en 1899 était beaucoup moins élevé que pendant l'année 1889, néanmoins le montant des exportations en 1899 a été estimé à \$50,200,518 contre \$39,286,333 en 1889. Les exportations de la paraffine ont augmenté considérablement en 10 ans, l'évaluation des exportations en 1889 étant \$2,029,602, et en 1899 \$6,804,684; presque toute la paraffine (6,220,137 gallons) ayant été expédiée en Europe. En 1899, la paraffine expédiée à la Grande-Bretagne, s'est élevée à une valeur de \$4,050,114; à la France, à \$101,281; à l'Allemagne, à \$867,287, et au reste de l'Europe, à \$1,201,445.

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## LE MUSÉE COMMERCIAL DE PHILADELPHIE.

Dans son récent message annuel au Congrès des Etats-Unis, le Président McKINLEY s'est étendu particulièrement sur le Musée Commercial de Philadelphie et sur le Congrès commercial international convoqué en connexion avec le Musée. Voici la teneur des paragraphes qui traitent ces sujets:

Pour se conformer à un acte du Congrès approuvé le 21 décembre

1898 et sous les auspices du Musée Commercial de Philadelphie, une intéressante exposition de la plus grande valeur des produits manufacturés adaptés spécialement au commerce d'exportation eut lieu à Philadelphie du 14 septembre au 1<sup>er</sup> décembre 1899. Le caractère représentatif des produits exposés et le grand intérêt témoigné dans les articles spéciaux de l'entreprise donnent un nouvel encouragement à ceux qui attendent avec confiance l'augmentation continue de notre exportation croissante des articles manufacturés, qui a été le fait le plus remarquable dans le développement économique des Etats-Unis pendant les années récentes. Un des traits caractéristiques de cette Exposition qui est destinée sans doute à devenir d'une utilité durable et croissante pour nos industries, est la collection des échantillons des marchandises produites dans les divers pays avec des références spéciales aux marchés particuliers, donnant des leçons pratiques d'objet aux manufacturiers des Etats-Unis, quant aux qualités, aux genres et aux prix des marchandises, pour satisfaire aux demandes spéciales des consommateurs et qui peuvent être exportées avec avantage.

En connexion avec l'Exposition, un Congrès Commercial International s'assembla sur l'invitation du Musée Commercial International de Philadelphie, transmise par le Département des Affaires Etrangères aux différents Gouvernements étrangers, dans le but d'échanger des renseignements et des opinions destinés à étendre le commerce international. Cette invitation reçut un accueil général et cordial, et le Congrès, qui commença ses sessions à l'Exposition le 13 octobre 1899, prouva être d'une grande importance pratique, en ce qu'il développa une reconnaissance générale de l'interdépendance des nations en affaires commerciales et un esprit le plus satisfaisant d'accommodement en ce qui concerne la disparition graduelle des difficultés existantes avec les relations réciproques, sans nuire aux intérêts industriels de chaque parti.

## L'EXPOSITION "PAN-AMERICAN" À BUFFALO.

Le Président MCKINLEY dans son message annuel au Congrès pendant le mois de décembre 1899, faisant allusion aux progrès faits par ceux qui sont chargés de l'Exposition "Pan-American" à Buffalo, s'exprima en ces termes :

La loi qui encourage l'ouverture de l'Exposition "Pan-American" sur la frontière du Niagara, dans le Département de l'Erie ou du Niagara, dans l'Etat de New York, pendant l'année 1901, fut approuvée le 3 mars 1899. Cette exposition qui aura lieu dans la ville de Buffalo, à une très courte distance de la grande chute du Niagara et à un jour de voyage de la résidence de 40,000,000 d'habitants, sera entièrement confinée à l'Hémisphère Occidental. Les Représentants Diplomatiques de la Grande-Bretagne, du Mexique, les Républiques de l'Amérique Centrale et de l'Amérique du Sud et la plupart des Etats des Etats-Unis, ont déjà donné les assurances satisfaisantes que ces pays et

Etats feront une exposition unique, intéressante et instructive, montrant particulièrement les progrès matériels faits pendant le siècle qui va finir.

La loi a alloué une somme de \$500,000 pour que les Départements Exécutifs, la Smithsonian Institution et le Musée National, la Commission du Poisson et des Pêcheries des Etats-Unis, le Département du Travail et le Bureau des Républiques Américaines du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis, puissent prendre part à cette Exposition. Afin que les préparatifs de l'Exposition de ce Gouvernement soient complets et harmonieux, une commission a été désignée et chargée de choisir, d'acheter, de préparer, de transporter, d'arranger et de garder les articles et les matériaux qui doivent être exposés. Cette commission a été organisée, et, pour se conformer à la loi, est déjà entrée en fonction.

J'ai toutes les raisons pour espérer et croire que cette Exposition tendra à cimenter plus fortement les relations cordiales entre les nations de ce continent.

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## DIAGRAMMES DÉMONTRANT LE MOUVEMENT COMMERCIAL DE L'AMÉRIQUE.

Les diagrammes publiés dans le présent BULLETIN MENSUEL (janvier 1900), indiquant le mouvement commercial entre les Etats-Unis et le Mexique, l'Amérique du Sud, l'Amérique Centrale et les Indes Occidentales, montrent, année par année, pendant la décade, le mouvement des principaux articles introduits dans le trafic entre l'Amérique du Nord et l'Amérique du Sud et permettent de suivre, d'un seul coup d'œil, la marche ascendante et descendante de ce commerce. Ces diagrammes sont préparés par le Bureau des Statistiques du Ministère des Finances et sont basés sur des tables compilées provenant d'un ouvrage intitulé: "Commerce américain," publié en juin 1899 par ledit bureau pour être distribué au public. Ce volume contient des détails minutieux sur le commerce de chacun des pays de l'Amérique du Sud, de l'Amérique Centrale, du Mexique et des Indes Occidentales pendant de nombreuses années aussi bien que sur le commerce entre ces pays et les Etats-Unis depuis les premières années du siècle, et est en conséquence un recueil de renseignements utiles pour les personnes intéressées dans ces questions.

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## CUBA.

### EXPOSITION À PARIS EN 1900.

Señor DEMETRIO ALBERTINI a été nommé Secrétaire de la Commission chargée de l'Exposition Cubaine à l'Exposition de Paris en 1900. Les appointements de Señor ALBERTINI seront de 250 dollars par mois. Le Ministre de la Guerre des Etats-Unis a affecté une somme de \$25,000 pour les dépenses de l'exposition, qui devra être prise sur les revenus de Cuba.

## MEXIQUE.

## DÉPÔTS DE COKE NATUREL.

Dans une réunion de l'Institut américain des ingénieurs des mines (American Institute of Mining Engineers) qui a eu lieu à San Francisco, Californie, pendant la dernière semaine du mois de septembre 1899, M. E. T. DIMBLE lut le récit de ses explorations sur la ligne du chemin de fer de Sonora et fit part de sa découverte de dépôts de coke naturel d'une qualité excellente. On croit que cette découverte sera d'une très grande importance pour le Mexique où le combustible enchérit tous les jours. Ci-après sont quelques extraits du rapport ci-dessus mentionné :

“Pendant les explorations tentées pour la “Southern Pacific Company” au commencement de cette année, des dépôts de coke naturel d'une telle étendue et d'une qualité si excellente qu'ils méritent d'être mentionnés furent découverts dans le terrain houiller de Santa Clara, dans le voisinage de La Barranca, petite ville située à 95 milles au nord-est de Ortiz, sur la ligne de chemin de fer Sonora. Les couches de charbon sont exposées dans le bassin de drainage de la rivière Calera qui se jette dans le fleuve Yaqui, en face de Toniche, et la vieille ville minière est située presque au milieu de terrain houiller. \* \* \*

“Toute l'étendue du terrain repose sur une couche de rocs appartenant à l'âge triasique, soulevée, affaissée et crevassée par places et couverte de roches éruptives de toutes sortes et de différents âges. Dans la moitié de la partie supérieure des dépôts de rocs triasiques, se trouvent des couches superposées de sable et d'argile. En cherchant les affleurements de charbon sur la rivière Calera, nous rencontrâmes un fragment de coke, et en suivant les traces nous trouvâmes finalement une petite couche de coke impur à l'embouchure de l'El Tren, un des principaux affluents de ce cours d'eau. Quelques jours plus tard, en creusant obliquement une galerie pour découvrir les filons de charbon supposés, nous trouvâmes une couche d'excellent coke de 3 pieds d'épaisseur reposant sur 2 pieds d'anthracite.

“Plus tard encore, en explorant les bords d'une rivière située à un demi-mille à l'ouest du gisement cité, nous découvrîmes une place où les ‘gophers’ avaient apporté des petits fragments de charbon et nous nous mîmes immédiatement à l'œuvre. A une profondeur de 10 pieds, nous découvrîmes une excellente couche de coke qui, à 30 pieds de profondeur avait une épaisseur de 8 pieds et à 130 pieds de profondeur en avait une de plus de 10 pieds.

“En dehors de ces deux puits que nous avons ensuite trouvé aboutir à la même couche, nous avons depuis découvert plusieurs autres gisements ayant une épaisseur variant entre 2 et 4 pieds. Il est probable que le coke n'est pas entièrement dû à l'effet produit par les matières ignées. Nous avons trouvé une couche de coke qui n'avait pas de roches ignées près d'elle, et dans une localité on a découvert, dans un

filon d'anthracite de 4 pieds, de petites cavités contenant du coke et après nous n'avons plus trouvé aucune roche d'intrusion dans le voisinage immédiat. Ces cavités sont autour du centre du filon et sont petites, mais le coke est de bonne qualité. De même que nous avons rencontré du coke dans l'anthracite, nous avons aussi découvert dans les premiers 50 ou 60 pieds, dans la pente 'gopher,' un peu d'anthracite dans les cavités qui sont au bas du coke.

"On a aussi remarqué la présence de charbon et de coke dans la même couche mais dans des bancs séparés. Le même fait a été constaté dans trois localités et dans trois couches différentes. Dans deux cas le coke forme la couche supérieure, et dans l'autre le charbon est au dessus. Dans la première galerie mentionnée plus haut, les deux couches sont séparées par un banc d'argile ayant 3 pouces d'épaisseur. Dans les deux autres je n'ai trouvé aucune séparation. Où le charbon est brisé on trouve un peu de graphite le long des parties fissurées. Je n'en ai pas rencontré dans les autres couches. Une partie de l'anthracite de la région contient aussi un peu de graphite dans les mêmes proportions, et il y a plusieurs localités où la couche toute entière est changée en graphite. La présence du graphite dans les filons du coke est intéressante, car elle montre que dans la transformation cumulative de la fibre végétale en graphite, le passage peut se faire, soit à travers l'anthracite, soit à travers le coke naturel.

"Le coke a la couleur du gris foncé, est de texture égale avec de petits pores (plus dense que la plupart des houilles carbonisées) et est très dur. Il se casse avec une fracture très uniforme, mais a, dans certaines places, la structure d'une colonne de houille carbonisée. C'est un combustible excellent qui brûle sans pétiller et sans déflagration. On peut le faire prendre aussi facilement que l'anthracite et il brûle parfaitement dans une grille de fer dans une cheminée, dans la forge d'un forgeron et dans les hauts fourneaux. Les cendres en sont blanches.

"La valeur de ces gisements de coke est due en grande partie à la régularité avec laquelle sont superposées les roches d'intrusion qui s'étendent sur de longues distances dans la même couche de charbon ardoisé; ce qui promet une bien plus grande provision de coke que celle que l'on pourrait espérer si les couches se trouvaient dans d'autres conditions, tout en donnant une grande valeur commerciale aux gisements de cette région où le charbon de cuisine est très rare."

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## PARAGUAY.

### RAPPORT SUR LE COMMERCE DU CACAO.

Pendant le mois de décembre 1899, Mr. JOHN H. RUFFIN, Consul des Etats Unis à Assomption, a adressé un rapport au sujet du marché au cacao, dans lequel il dit que très peu de cacao a été récemment exporté du Paraguay. En 1897 l'exportation du produit de ce pays fut achetée par la Banque Agricole à Assomption et 2,000 sacs pesant

ensemble 97 tonnes furent vendus à Londres, Angleterre, pour un petit peu plus de 1,094 livres sterling. Par suite de cette opération, la banque réalisa, déduction faite des dépenses, 938 livres sterling, soit environ \$4,732 en or. D'après cela, il semblerait que le prix du cacao Paraguayen est coté plus haut que celui des autres cacaos. La plupart du cacao qui arrive à Londres vient d'Afrique et est offert à un prix variant entre \$46.23 et \$48.66 la tonne, mais le produit Paraguayen a rapporté de \$54.75 à \$55.96 la tonne et est considéré beaucoup plus supérieur. Le Consul dit que Naples, Italie, désire obtenir annuellement 10,000 tonnes de cacao Paraguayen à un prix montant environ à 11 livres sterling (\$53.53) la tonne. Dans le Paraguay, les amandes coûtent de \$4 à \$5 l'arobe, soit environ 48 à 71 cents chaque 25 livres.

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## ETATS-UNIS.

### RÉCLAMATION CONTRE LE MEXIQUE DÉCLARÉE SANS FONDEMENT.

Le 11 décembre 1899, la Cour Suprême des Etats-Unis a confirmé le jugement de la Cour des Réclamations dans le procès intenté par la Compagnie des Mines d'Argent La Abra (La Abra Silver Mining Company) à la République du Mexique, déclarant que la réclamation qui se montait à environ \$4,000,000 était frauduleuse et sans fondement.

Le jugement fut prononcé par le Juge HARLAN qui dit, en substance, que la première réclamation à la Commission Américaine-Mexicaine en 1870 se montait à \$1,950,000, mais qu'après cela elle s'était élevée à \$3,962,000. Cette réclamation était basée sur l'allégation que les préjudices causés à la Compagnie La Abra par les autorités Mexicaines pendant que la Compagnie opérait dans l'Etat de Durango (Mexique) se montaient à cette somme. La Commission, par l'intermédiaire de son arbitre, Sir EDWARD THORNTON, a accordé 683,041 dollars. Après qu'une partie de cette somme fut payée aux Etats-Unis pour la Compagnie La Abra, le Gouvernement Mexicain fournit de nouvelles preuves au Département d'Etat démontrant que la réclamation était frauduleuse.

Après plusieurs autres procès, le Congrès, en 1892, vota une loi autorisant la Cour des Réclamations à faire des investigations sur l'affaire, cette loi ordonnant spécifiquement que la Cour s'assurât si oui ou non la réclamation était frauduleuse et appuyée sur de faux témoignages. La Cour des Réclamations trouva que la réclamation était entachée de fraude et cette décision fut confirmée par le jugement de Mr le Juge HARLAN à la Cour de Cassation. Il dit que l'évidence prouvait que l'histoire entière de la perte due à l'inconduite des autorités Mexicaines était invraisemblable et sans fondement, et que si la compagnie avait fait faillite, les actes officiels n'y étaient pour rien. L'effet du jugement est d'empêcher que des sommes soient payées ultérieurement aux réclamateurs de La Abra.

En prononçant l'arrêt, le juge décida incidemment que si la signature du Président était apposée sur un bill pendant les vacances du Congrès et avant que les dix jours accordés par la Constitution fussent expirés, l'acte ainsi signé serait aussi valide que si le Congrès était en session. Cette question fut soulevée dans le but d'attaquer la constitutionnalité de la loi de 1892 autorisant l'investigation des réclamations de la Cour des Réclamations, laquelle loi fut approuvée pendant les vacances de Noël de 1892-1893. M. le Juge HARLAN dit que le point essentiel était que le bill fut signé et qu'il n'était pas important que la signature fut apposée pendant les vacances ou pendant la session du Congrès du moment qu'elle l'était dans les dix jours accordés pour l'examen du Chef de l'Etat. Cependant la décision qui a été prise sur ce point n'a pas inclu la légalité de l'approbation du Chef de l'Etat après l'ajournement final du Congrès, cette question n'ayant pas été soulevée.

#### NOUVEAUX RÈGLEMENTS POUR LES MANDATS POSTAUX.

A partir du 2 janvier, le tarif des frais imposés pour l'émission des mandats de poste internationaux ont été divisés comme suit: 1° Les droits intérieurs seront imposés pour les mandats de poste payables à Cuba et Puerto-Rico; 2° les taxes intermédiaires spéciales pour les mandats payables au Mexique; 3° Les droits internationaux réguliers comme ils sont prescrits dans les lois et règlements de la poste. Le deuxième tarif qui est nouveau fut adopté par la convention qui eut lieu au mois de septembre dernier, autorisant l'échange direct des mandats de poste internationaux avec la République du Mexique.

Le Bureau des postes à Laredo, Texas, agira désormais comme Bureau de l'échange international pour le compte des Etats-Unis, tandis que le Bureau des postes de Nuevo Laredo agira, de la même manière, comme Bureau des échanges pour le compte du Mexique. Le montant des mandats de poste émis aux Etats-Unis devront être libellés en monnaie courante des Etats-Unis et les mandats de poste émis au Mexique seront libellés en monnaie courante du Mexique.

#### CONDITION DES RÉCOLTES.

D'après le rapport publié par le Département de l'agriculture le 3 janvier 1900, la condition de la récolte du blé pendant le mois de décembre 1899 a été comme suit: Les influences climatiques pendant le mois ont été généralement favorables au blé d'hiver, les rapports de la majorité des Etats indiquant que la plante est bien enracinée, a poussé vigoureusement et promet beaucoup excepté dans l'Etat de Michigan et quelques parties de l'Etat de Ohio. Dans le premier Etat ci-dessus mentionné, la dernière semence n'a pas donné de rejetons satisfaisants, tandis que dans l'Etat de Ohio la plante est petite, faible et dans de mauvaises conditions pour l'hiver.

On a craint que le froid rigoureux qui a sévi pendant la dernière partie de décembre et les premiers jours de janvier, ne causât quelques

dommages aux champs qui ne sont pas protégés par la neige, plus particulièrement dans quelques parties de Pensylvanie, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana et Illinois, pendant que la gelée et le dégel, tour à tour, ont été défavorables aux récoltes dans l'ouest de la Virginie et le Missouri. Dans les Etats situés sur la côte du Pacifique, la plante se trouve dans des conditions excellentes. Tous les rapports disent que partout la première semence a été ravagée par la mouche "Hessian" quoique cependant à l'exception du Michigan, Pensylvanie et Tennessee, les dommages paraissent être très peu considérables.

### EXPOSANTS AMÉRICAINS À PARIS.

Mr. PECK, Commissaire Général de la Commission des Etats-Unis à l'Exposition de Paris, a publié une liste des principaux exposants commerciaux des Etats-Unis qui ont accepté l'emplacement qui leur a été assigné à l'Exposition par le Commissaire Général. La liste comprend 1,095 noms de personnes, sociétés ou corporations, mais ne comprend pas l'agriculture, les mines, la littérature, les publications périodiques, les sciences, les beaux arts, les associations religieuses, les sociétés de charité et autres, les écoles, les collèges, etc. Une telle liste comprendrait les noms de 7,000 exposants, environ. Une liste officielle arrangée par groupes et classes sera publiée dans le catalogue officiel actuellement en voie de préparation.

### IMITATION À L'ÉTRANGER DES MARQUES DE FABRIQUES AMÉRICAINES.

Un nombre de manufacturiers de la Nouvelle Angleterre sont occupés à rechercher l'identité des personnes qui ont introduit sur les marchés de l'Amérique du Sud une imitation habile de leurs marques patentées de flanelles. On dit aussi que d'autres marchandises manufacturées ont été introduites sur le marché par des fabricants européens et que l'on trouve ces contre-façons en plus grande abondance dans l'Amérique du Sud et en Orient (La Chine, le Japon, etc.).

Le cas particulier en question fut soumis à l'attention des représentants d'un manufacturier des Etats-Unis par un correspondant à Valparaiso, Chili. Ce dernier étant familier avec le genre des produits de la fabrique fut frappé de la qualité inférieure des marchandises. En examinant plus attentivement l'étiquette, il s'aperçut que des mots avaient été mal épelés et que l'on avait fait d'autres changements si adroits qu'ils pouvaient, tout en échappant à l'accusation de fraude, tromper les personnes qui ignoraient la langue anglaise. On recherche constamment et énergiquement les coupables et on est arrivé à trouver que la flanelle dont il s'agit avait été contrefaite en Europe.

Il y a quelques années, quelques Consuls Américains du continent de l'Europe attirèrent l'attention des autorités à Washington sur des faits semblables. On donne à entendre que le cas ci-dessus peut prendre les proportions d'un conflit international.



**FABRICATION DE LA MONNAIE À L'HÔTEL DE LA MONNAIE À PHILADELPHIE.**

L'Hôtel de la Monnaie à Philadelphie frappa en 1899 122,790,528 pièces de monnaie, représentant une valeur d'un petit peu plus de \$65,000,000. En plus du monnayage pour les Etats-Unis, de la monnaie fut frappée pour la République de Costa-Rica et Saint-Domingue (République Dominicaine). Le total de la monnaie d'or frappée pour les Etats-Unis se montait à 4,669,768 pièces ayant une valeur de \$54,632,750. On a monnayé 38,075,384 pièces d'argent représentant une valeur de \$8,214,565. On a frappé un grand nombre de monnaies de cuivre et de nickel. On a frappé 26,029,031 pièces de 5 cents ayant une valeur de \$1,301,451.55 et 53,600,031 pièces de 1 cent ayant une valeur de \$536,000.31. Pour Saint-Domingue, 241,314 pesos d'argent furent frappés. Pour Costa-Rica l'Hôtel de la Monnaie frappa 25,000 pièces de 20 "colon" chaque ayant une valeur de \$9,307 en monnaie courante des Etats-Unis; 50,000 pièces de 10 "colon" chaque et 100,000 pièces de cinq "colon" chaque, toutes en monnaie d'or ayant une valeur de \$698,023.26.

**FAITS DIVERS.**

Le magasin d'entrepôt réfrigératif que le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis construira à Manille, Archipel des Philippines, aura une dimension de 245 pieds carrés et deux étages. Ce bâtiment pourra contenir 5,000 carcasses de bœuf, 7,000 carcasses de mouton, 100 tonnes de lard, 50 tonnes de bœuf, 100 tonnes de légumes et possédera une machine pouvant fabriquer 40 tonnes de glace par jour.

On va expérimenter dans les Iles Sandwich un nouveau remède pour guérir la lèpre avec lequel on a déjà obtenu, dit-on, des résultats remarquables. Ce remède est le produit d'un arbrisseau vénézuélien dont la culture a été introduite dans les Iles sous la direction du Dr. Carmichael de l'Hôpital maritime des Etats-Unis, qui a été chargé par les autorités à Washington d'expérimenter ce produit.

Le Bureau de la navigation du Ministère de la marine des Etats-Unis a publié une liste des vaisseaux qui composent la force navale de la nation, qui se monte à 312 bateaux. Dans cette liste sont inclus un grand nombre de petits vaisseaux capturés à Cuba et aux Iles Philippines, mais en excluant ces derniers l'augmentation dans la liste navale pendant deux années est des plus remarquables.

Le journal hebdomadaire "Harper's Weekly" du mois de décembre 1899, contient une page où sont illustrés les différents modèles des vaisseaux de guerre de la marine des Etats-Unis qui seront exposés à l'Exposition de Paris de 1900. Il y a en tout 25 de ces modèles, y compris les meilleurs de chaque type de vaisseaux actuellement en service actif dans la marine.

La dernière découverte que l'on ait faite de l'emploi de l'automobile est de lui faire remorquer les bateaux. Le journal "Les Exportateurs

et Importateurs" (The Exporters and Importers) du mois de décembre 1899 dit que l'on est en train de construire à Hatton, Conn., une automobile qui coûtera \$4,000 et sera capable de remorquer à la fois 6 à 10 bateaux sur le canal Erie.

L'Association des marchands de New-York est en train de faire parvenir par la poste à 150,000 marchands américains, un rapport sur la nécessité urgente pour le Congrès de prendre des mesures immédiates pour l'amélioration de la condition de Puerto-Rico.

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## URUGUAY.

### RATIFICATION DU TRAITÉ AVEC L'ALLEMAGNE.

Pendant la dernière partie du mois de décembre 1899, le Ministère des affaires étrangères à Washington a reçu un rapport de M. SWALM, Consul à Montévideo, appelant l'attention du Gouvernement sur la ratification du traité entre l'Uruguay et l'Allemagne. La convention conclue entre les deux pays est en réalité le rétablissement du traité de 1892 qui fut dénoncé en 1897. D'après les termes de ce traité, les citoyens et les produits de chaque pays auront droit dans l'autre pays aux mêmes privilèges accordés à la nation la plus favorisée, excepté que l'Uruguay est autorisé à faire des arrangements commerciaux avec les pays voisins pour les produits qui ne soutiennent pas la concurrence avec ceux d'origine allemande.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHIE.

Les livres et les brochures qui seront envoyés au Bureau des Républiques Américaines et qui contiendront des sujets ou matières traitant des pays de l'Union internationale des Républiques Américaines, seront mentionnés dans le Bulletin Mensuel sous le titre "Bibliographie."

Dans son rapport annuel de 1898 publié en 1899, M. George A. NEWELL, Directeur de l'Exploitation des Mines de l'Etat de Michigan, en donnant une illustration pratique des minerais que le Michigan a produit pendant l'année, fournit les exemples suivants: Si tout le fer que l'Etat de Michigan a produit pendant l'année était converti en rail d'acier pesant 50 livres chaque pied, la rail ferait une fois et demie le tour du monde. Si le cuivre purgé, extrait des mines, était étendu le long d'un fil téléphonique No. 12, ce fil contournerait 29 fois et  $\frac{1}{2}$  le globe. Si les barils de sel raffiné dans le Michigan étaient ajoutés les uns après les autres, ils formeraient une ligne droite ayant une longueur de 1,500 milles. J'estime que la valeur des minerais qui ont été extraits dans l'Etat pendant l'année et qui ont été vendus sur les marchés, s'est élevée à \$38,825,000. Dans ce chiffre, le minerai de fer est compris pour \$18,450,847, le cuivre pour \$16,834,670 et le sel pour \$2,686,272.

# MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

## BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

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VOL. VIII.

FEBRUARY, 1900.

No. 2.

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### ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

#### PUBLIC EXPENDITURES FOR 1900.

The London "Times" correspondent at Buenos Ayres, in a telegram dated January 23, 1900, says that, according to the accounting department, the public expenditures sanctioned by the National Congress for 1900 amount to £13,000,000 (\$63,264,500, United States). The Executive Power maintains that it avoids a deficit by heavy economies, and is relying on being able to discount treasury bills in the London market.

#### CONDITION OF THE CROPS.

Mr. WILLIAM GOODWIN, of the "authorized grain inspection of the the River Plate," under date of December 29, 1899, issued the following report on the condition of the crops of the Argentine Republic at that time:

"A splendid crop of wheat has been gathered during the fine weather in all parts of the country, except in the south, where the grain is just now ripening. The quality is excellent, and will leave nothing to be desired. The thrashing has so far met expectations, but it is yet too early to make estimates as to the excess of the present over last year's crop. Linseed is also in a nearly perfect condition, and is a very large crop, of remarkable quality. The weather conditions could scarcely have been better for the maize plants and the grazing lands, and it seems that another 'fat year' is assured to the Argentine Republic."

Since then a hot wave has prevailed throughout the Argentine Republic and Uruguay, which has done much damage to the growing maize plants and to alfalfa and grazing lands.

**COMMERCIAL SITUATION IN BUENOS AYRES.**

The commercial situation is reported as very active and satisfactory in the city of Buenos Ayres. The wool season has opened and promises to be the best in the history of the country, and the market for grain is more active than has been noted for a number of years, the crops being especially noteworthy for their yield and condition. It is stated that nearly all the linseed crop has been contracted for by agents of British and Belgium firms at advanced prices over 1899. It is expected that the London market will absorb all or nearly all of the surplus wheat and the greater part of the maize which will be exported.

The demand for horses, mules, cattle, and crude alfalfa for the South African market can scarcely be met, while the wages of the laborers are increasing. The many Italian immigrants are being employed almost as soon as they land in the country.

**CHANGES IN TARIFF RATES.**

The following modifications have been made in the customs tariff of the Republic:

A decrease of 5 per cent in the import duties on articles of knitted cotton. Typewriters have been placed on the list of articles paying a duty of 5 per cent. Specific duties will hereafter be collected on the following: Cacao, oats, or other similar products, 25 *centavos* per kilo; powdered cocoa or chocolate, 35 *centavos* per kilo; coffee substitutes (barley or malt), 8 *centavos* per kilo; canned vegetables, 22 *centavos* per kilo; natural spices, 4 *centavos* per kilo. Sulphate of copper, which formerly paid 25 per cent, will now pay 10 per cent.

**THE PORT OF ROSARIO.**

It is reported that the Argentine Government is going to ask Congress to authorize the call for bids for the execution of the construction of the port at Rosario according to the plans and specifications which have been made. This city is the second commercial place of the Republic and the key of all trade with the interior. The export products of the northern Provinces, from San Luis to San Juan and from Cordoba to Jujuy, center here.

Up to the present Rosario has not benefited in any way from its exceptional situation on the most important waterway of the Republic, on account of the many sand banks which obstruct a part of the Parana River and the inaccessibility of the actual port for vessels of a certain tonnage, obliging the unloading by lighters. The bill to be introduced in Congress provides for the construction of 3,000 meters of wharves, sheds, storehouses, railroads, etc.

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## EARNINGS OF THE RAILWAYS.

The earnings of the several railways in the Argentine Republic and Uruguay for 1899 are given as follows:

## ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Name of railway.	Earnings.	From—
Grand Eastern.....	£181,917	July 1
Southern.....	826,439	July 1
Buenos Ayres and Rosario.....	881,379	Jan. 1
Pacific.....	226,501	July 1
Eastern.....	363,671	July 1
Argentine Central.....	1,222,766	Jan. 1
Santa Fé and Cordoba.....	55,651	July 1
Bahia Blanca Northern.....	21,667	July 1
Andino.....	87,534	Jan. 1
Eastern Santa Fe.....	1,621,872	Jan. 1
Argentine Eastern.....	34,446	Jan. 1
Entre Rios Central.....	35,148	July 1
Cordoba Central.....	1,170,412	Jan. 1
Central Sección N.....	2,338,093	Jan. 1
Cordoba Northeastern.....	175,220	Jan. 1
Cordoba and Rosario.....	861,550	July 1
Argentine Northeastern.....	70,423	Jan. 1
Northern Central.....	1,911,270	Jan. 1
Rioja and Catamarca.....	7,160	Aug. 1

## URUGUAY.

Uruguay Central.....	£141,472	July 1
Central Extension—		
East.....	141,472	July 1
North.....	13,643	July 1

## DURABILITY OF QUEBRACHO WOOD.

The immense forests in the northern part of the Argentine Republic, especially those crossed by the railway lines of the French company in the Province of Santa Fe and the Argentine Railway Company, abound in the trees which furnish what is known as the red quebracho wood. This tree is stated by "El Economista," of Lima, to belong to the apocynaceous (*Aspidosperma quebracho*), but it would seem that it is more properly a member of the anacardiaceous family (*Loxopterygium Lorentzii*), which is the technical appellation of the red quebracho. The first-named species is commonly known as the white quebracho. This wood has not been fully appreciated in Europe, and has only been used in the tanning industry; but in South America it has been used for many years in railroad construction, and for framing, partitions, etc.

The red quebracho contains a large amount of tannin, varying from 15 to 20 per cent, which circumstance has justified its employment in the preparation of hides and skins. Its durability and weight have been the causes for its adoption as cross-ties for railroads whenever the lines have traversed the regions where it is found in abundance. The discovery of its durability came about when railroads were being constructed through the pastoral regions of the Argentine Republic. The inclosures or corrals where live stock was rounded up and kept during

the night were constructed with posts and crosspieces of quebracho wood, and when it became necessary to remove them, as they obstructed the proposed lines of the railroad, it was found, greatly to the surprise of those performing the work, that the part of the posts which had been under ground were in as good a state of preservation as that which was exposed to the air. In some cases these posts had been partly buried for over fifty years in land furrowed and gullied by the torrential rains of the summer, and yet the wood was in as good a condition as though it had been felled recently.

"El Economista" does not enter into any absolutely certain explanation of this phenomenon, but limits itself to stating that the tannin, naturally distributed in the interior fibers of the tree, and not wholly in the bark which had been removed, must contribute in a greater degree than all injected substances to the preservation of the wood. The great difficulty of securing a substance which would preserve wooden cross-ties used in railroad construction in certain parts of the Argentine Republic, and which would prevent their rapid destruction in a country where ballast is unknown and where the cross-tie is simply laid on the ground, which is frequently sandy and alternately exposed to torrential rains and dried by intense heat, naturally led to the substitution of iron cross-ties for the wooden ones in the railroads crossing the pampas of the Republic.

But recently experiments have been made which show that the hard red quebracho is undeniably the best material that can be used for the purpose. The wood weighs on an average 1,250 kilos per cubic meter, so that a cross-tie of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  meters by 25 centimeters by 15 centimeters would weigh 117 kilos. The advantages which result from these conditions to the stability of the road and the possible increase of speed of the trains is at once patent. The stability is due not only to the weight of the cross-tie itself, but also to the resistance of the wood, as the quebracho does not split or become compressed by blows; so true is this that it is necessary to perforate the wood deeply before introducing the bolts and spikes into them. The amount of timber of this kind which the forests of the Argentine Republic can provide will suffice to furnish all the railroads of the country with the best kind of cross-ties for many years to come.

#### PROPOSED RAILWAY LAWS.

The Congress of the Argentine Republic has recently had before it a bill intended to improve the service of the State railways and to enact legislative measures which shall do away with certain conditions which at present operate injuriously with respect to the interests of the country. All laws relating to this subject now in force refer only to the construction of railway lines, and are silent as to their management and operation.

The principal purposes of the new bill are to place the operation of

the State railroads under the direct management of officials immediately answerable to the Ministry of Public Works; to have Congress make a lump appropriation for the operating expenses based upon estimates submitted by the Executive Power during the regular session; to authorize the said Power to apportion the appropriation in such manner as best to meet the requirements of the service of each railway line or system; to also authorize the officials dependent upon the Ministry of Public Works to make purchases of materials and stores for the operation and construction of the roads under their charge without advertising for bids, provided the total of such expense shall not exceed \$5,000; to exempt the said railroads from all national, provincial, and municipal tax which is now or may hereafter be levied, and to compel them to transport all public property at a reduction of 50 per cent from their ordinary tariffs and of 20 per cent in the case of property belonging to the Provincial Governments; to compel the railways to use articles of domestic manufacture whenever possible, and to exempt them from the payment of import duties upon articles which they may be compelled to purchase abroad by reason of their not being manufactured in the country.

#### EXPOSITION OF CATTLE AND DAIRY PRODUCTS—THE LIVE-STOCK INDUSTRY.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to Señor A. DEL VISO, Chargé d'Affaires of the Argentine Republic, for a copy of the official notice issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, providing for the holding of an exposition of cattle and dairy products, etc., at Buenos Ayres during the month of May, 1900. The notice is in the form of a decree, promulgated by the Government, and covers the following matters:

The "Argentine Rural Society" intending to hold a fair in Buenos Ayres during the month of May, 1900; at the same time there will be held an exposition of dairy products and cattle, machinery, implements, and utensils employed in the said industry. The Bureau of Agriculture and Live Stock, in concert with the Society named, will organize the exhibition with the following sections: First, thoroughbred milch cows born in the country; second, dairy products; third, machinery, implements, and utensils employed in the elaboration and sale of said products. Premiums and awards in the way of medals, diplomas, or money will be given for the different classes into which the sections are divided. The jury of awards will be composed of three persons to be designated by the Director of Agriculture and Live Stock in concert with the Board of Directors of the Argentine Rural Society. All machinery, implements, and utensils intended for the exposition will be exempt of import duties, and will be transported from the port of entry at the expense of the Government. The Argentine Rural Society will furnish gratis the site, motor power, and amount of milk necessary for the holding of the exposition.

The Government has taken a great interest in the exposition, being urged thereto by its deep interest in the live-stock industry of the Republic, and its desire to show the progress achieved by the people of the Argentine Republic in this particular line of endeavor, as well as by its efforts to promote the agricultural and live-stock interests of the country. In the effort to cause knowledge of the proposed exposition to be as widespread as possible, the Government has notified the whole diplomatic and consular corps of the Republic of the plan of organization of the same as well as the regulations governing it.

The live-stock industry in the Argentine Republic is making giant strides in the economic development of the country. The large number of moneyed men who devote themselves to this industry has been endeavoring for some years past to improve the domestic stock, especially as regards horned cattle and sheep. The strains have been very greatly improved, as is shown by the fact that wool, which in 1898 sold for \$6.50, in 1899 sold for \$12 per ten kilos; salt hides, which in the first-named year brought \$15.50, in the last were sold for \$21 per 100 kilos. For the first nine months of 1899 the exports of cattle and sheep on the hoof, meat products, etc., amounted in gold to \$52,590,876.

#### HORSES FOR THE BRITISH ARMY.

As mentioned in the January number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN, the British Army in South Africa has been using horses shipped from the Argentine Republic. Letters received from officers and men of Her Britannic Majesty's forces show that the Argentine horse is greatly admired for his pluck and staying qualities, and it is stated to be better than the native horses, and those taken from Europe, although it is not claimed that they are superior to the English horse. Three shipments of horses had been made up to December 10, 1899, and on that date a telegraphic order was received in Buenos Ayres requesting a further shipment of 1,500 head.

#### AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY IMPORTERS.

The "Südamerikanische Rundschau" publishes the following list of importers of agricultural machinery in the various cities of the Argentine Republic:

In Buenos Ayres: L. D. Forgues, Calle Belgrano, 472; Juan D. Fitte, Calle Moreno, 834; Dillemann y Cia., Calle Alsina, 829.

In Cordoba: Flandin, Calle San Martin; Kegler, Calla Rivadavia; Lousteau Hermanos, Calle Rivadavia.

In Tucuman: Raverini y Barcia, Calle Las Heras; Louis Grünauer y Cia., Calla 24 Setiembre; Juan Puppo, Calle Mendoza.

In Mendoza: Hector Berri, Lanur Aluralde, Emiliano Torres y Cia.

In Santa Fé: Ruston Procter y Cia., Ransomes Sims y Cia., Clayton Shuttleworth y Cia.



## SUGAR PRODUCTION IN NOVEMBER, 1898 AND NOVEMBER, 1899.

The "Argentinisches Wochenblatt" gives the following statistics of the sugar production in November, 1899, as compared with the same month in 1898:

Plantation.	1899.	1898.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
La Florida .....	82,250	.....
La Trinidad .....	125,075	.....
Nueva Baviera .....	22,921	.....
Lastenia .....	.....	175,200
Santa Ana .....	27,590	.....
Lules .....	44,158	77,920
Los Ralos .....	44,835	74,700
Santa Lucia .....	66,088	84,085
San Miguel .....	144,352	.....
La Providencia .....	94,881	115,092
La Azucarera Argentine .....	363,700	120,000
San Andrés .....	108,674	.....
La Invernada .....	7,194	.....
Esperanza .....	110,462	.....
Amalia .....	53,886	.....
San José .....	22,183	.....
San Pablo .....	87,640	20,825
Concepción .....	368,800	272,202
Santa Rosa .....	.....	81,686
Luján .....	71,145	.....
La Esperanza (Leach) .....	.....	39,600
Ledesma .....	74,065	.....
Buenos Aires .....	13,907	26,671
Colonia Pinto .....	.....	13,997
Total .....	1,933,799	1,110,978

## THE MAR CHIQUITA LAKE.

An Argentine surveyor, in a communication printed by the "Principio," of Cordoba, tells something about a great salt lake in the Province of Cordoba, known as "Mar Chiquita." He observes that the survey report of 1890 of this inland sea gives its dimensions from east to west as 81 kilometers (50.33 miles), with a width at the most extreme points of 50 kilometers (31.07 miles), but since that survey its formation has greatly changed. The average depth varies slightly, being from 12 to 16 feet, according to the season of the year. The bottom of the lake is uniformly smooth and sandy. It is inhabited by fish, but they are small and do not thrive well, owing to the saltiness of the water, which is a 6 per cent solution. There are fifteen islands scattered through the lake, which are thickly wooded with quebracho and pine timber. The shores of the lake are also covered with forest growth. The region round about is entirely uninhabited and many wild animals abound.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Buenos Ayres "Handel's Zeitung" contains the interesting information that the Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, formerly Minister of the United States to the Argentine Republic, has written a letter to President ROCA wherein he makes the statement that he expects

to return to Buenos Ayres with the intention of inaugurating certain important business undertakings, among others the opening of a North American banking institution. The same newspaper prints the information that an English syndicate has made a proposition to the Government of the Province of Buenos Ayres to purchase or lease the La Plata ports.

“La Union de Molineros” (Millers’ Union) of Buenos Ayres and Rosario has solicited the assistance of the Minister of Agriculture in obtaining lower railway freight rates and other special privileges connected with shipments of flour to Brazil. The Union also asks that the Government do all in its power to dissuade Brazil from conceding special advantages to flour from the United States, recommending the reduction of duties on certain imports from Brazil, even should the national industries of the Argentine Republic be not so favored by the Brazilian Government.

The commission named by the Government to present a plan for reforms in the regulations regarding the tax on wines and artificial beverages completed its labors late in the year 1899 and presented a report to the Minister of Finance which was very exhaustive, and advised many modifications and amendments in existing legislation upon the subject. The amendments suggested are considered very important, one of them being the establishment of a general chemical laboratory for the testing and appraising of wines and artificial drinks.

The creation of a museum for national products has proceeded so far that a building has been secured in Buenos Ayres, which will be equipped with the necessary cases and furniture. The museum will be under the supervision of the Chamber of Commerce of the city, whose president, Señor CARLOS LIX RHETT, has addressed a circular to those interested, requesting samples of wool, skins, grain, and other products of the country to be sent to him for exhibition.

The new port constructed at Colastiné in the Province of Santa Fé by the French railroad company was to have been opened to traffic at the first of the year. This port, which will cost over \$100,000, will be completed by a new wharf of more than a kilometer in length, where depots for grains will be established, and where vessels navigating on the high seas can come and anchor and load all the products brought from the north of the Republic.

The horse-breeding industry, which is carried on to such an extent in the Republic, has caused the agriculturists to experiment on a new forage plant called *la sacalina*, technically, *Polygonum sachalinense*, especially in the provinces of Buenos Ayres and Entre Rios. The plant originated in Siberia, and is said to possess very appetizing qualities and to grow in any kind of soil and not to be affected by changes in temperature.

Owing to a pressure of other business during the closing days of the last session of the Argentine Congress, the submission thereto of the treaties of arbitration concluded *ad referendum* with Italy, Paraguay, and Uruguay was deferred. A protocol extending for a period of twelve months the time designated for the ratification of the treaty between the Argentine Republic and Uruguay was signed on December 8, 1899.

The "Tariff of Values Committee" has decided to modify the proposed increase in the value of wools. The actual valuation of \$2 gold per 10 kilos on all kinds of wool is to remain in force as regards *criolla* wool, but fine wool is to be valued at \$3 gold per 10 kilos. The duty on *criolla* wool will, therefore, remain, as hitherto, at 8 cents gold per 10 kilos, and will be 12 cents gold per 10 kilos on fine wools.

The Italian Minister to the Argentine Republic has forwarded a report on Patagonia to his home Government. He asserts that not more than one-tenth part of that region is fit for settlers, and even a great proportion of this one-tenth should be devoted only to the grazing of cattle. The climate is described as too rigorous for Italians and the Territory generally dry and wind-swept.

Coal recently discovered at Cafayate, a Department of the Province of Salta, has been subjected to chemical analysis and found to be of excellent quality. The Government has been requested to give this coal a trial on some of its war vessels, and also to carry into effect the plan already approved by the Government to construct a branch railway line through the Lerma Valley to Cafayate.

The increasing trade between the United States and the Argentine Republic has induced the Houston Line, of Liverpool, to put on a regular service between New York and Buenos Ayres with vessels capable of carrying 6,000 tons of freight. The service will be monthly, the steamers leaving New York on the last Saturday of each month.

Of the 707 steamships, with a tonnage of 1,035,428 tons, entering the port of Buenos Ayres during the first seven months of 1899, only one, of a burden of 2,729 tons, carried the United States flag. Three hundred and ninety-four steam and sailing vessels, of a tonnage of 1,038,484 tons, were English, and 124, of a burden of 517,215 tons, were German.

From October 1, 1898, to December 1, 1899, there were constructed in the city of Buenos Ayres 2,390 linear meters of new buildings from one to seven stories in height, the municipal treasury receiving as license fees for the same the sum of \$559,174, which was \$162,000 more than during the previous year.

The estimated exports through the port of Rosario for the year 1900, as published in "La Nación" of Buenos Ayres, give the shipments

therefrom as follows: Wheat, 2,000,000 tons; corn, 1,000,000 tons; hemp and other textiles, 900,000 tons; wool, skins, lumber, bones, hay, flour, barley, bird seed, ores, etc., 2,000,000

The municipality of Rosario had granted Señor FEDERICO SCHARRER permission to establish an electric-light plant with underground wires for the term of fifty years, he paying 5 per cent of the gross receipts to the city. A proposition has been submitted looking to the establishment of electric tramways

Maj. Gen. CARLO VOLPINI, of the Italian Army, is now in Buenos Ayres for the purpose of purchasing horses for cavalry purposes. Italy is dependent upon foreign animals, and has previously purchased them in Hungary. About 20,000 head are required annually for the Italian service.

Two recent land concessions in the Province of Cordoba have been made a State colony. Together they contain 10,000 hectares of land, which will be sold to the colonists at \$18.57 (paper) per hectare. The colony will hereafter bear the name of Celina.

On January 26, 1900, President ROCA, accompanied by the members of his Cabinet, visited Admiral SCHLEY, of the United States Navy, on the cruiser *Chicago*. The vessel saluted him with a volley of twenty-one guns, the regular Presidential salute.

The local press is commenting on the departure of immigrants from the Province of Santa Fé. During December, 1899, more than one hundred and fifty families of Austrians and Basques left the Province for the purpose of purchasing homes in Uruguay.

Tobacco culture in the Province of Salta is becoming a great industry. The planters were so well satisfied with their crops of last year that they have determined to enlarge the area under tobacco during the present year to twice or thrice that of last year.

The Minister of Justice, Señor MAGNASCO, has, by the advice of the Attorney-General, issued an order prohibiting any life-insurance company from paying any claim on an insurance policy where the insured person had committed suicide.

The British Minister in Buenos Ayres has paid to the Minister of War of the Argentine Republic the amount at which the horses were valued which President ROCA wished to present to the British Government for service in South Africa.

The Santa Fe and Cordoba Railroad has recently constructed a grain elevator at Villa Constitución, and is now engaged in constructing another alongside of it. Each elevator will have a capacity of 1,000 tons per day.

The Government has recently granted to a native *cacique* a large parcel of public land in the Chubut Territory for the establishment of a colony of natives, and has provided him with wagons and 250 kilos of wheat for sowing.

In view of the scarcity of sacks for the exportation of grain, the "Review of the River Plate" says that the Argentine Government has agreed to admit those articles free of duty for a period of eight months from December 1, 1899.

Señor CARLOS MASCHWITZ, department chief of the Directory of Railways, has been appointed by the Government to represent it officially at the International Railway Congress to be held in Brussels this year.

The "Review of the River Plate" says that Buenos Ayres consumes about 300 tons of snails a year. The best varieties are imported from Italy and France, while the best of the home product comes from Chascomus.

The Minister of the Interior, Señor YOFRE, has commissioned Professors OSCAR and ADOLPHUS DÖRING to explore the Puna de Atacama, about which so little is known. A map will be made of the region.

The total receipts of street railways in Buenos Ayres during the month of November, 1899, was \$1,068,644.64, of which 6 per cent was paid to the municipality.

Wine to the amount of 773,000 hectoliters was exported from Mendoza during the month of November, 1899. The stock remaining on hand amounted to a little more than 200,000 hectoliters.

Dr. ALCORTE, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, started for Europe about the middle of December on a special mission in connection with the boundary arbitration.

The sugar factory in Telecuary is reported to have worked 9,000,000 kilos of sugar cane during the last season. About one-half of this was grown by the company on its own territory.

For the year 1900 the regular army of the Argentine Republic will consist of 91 field officers, 811 commissioned officers, and 7,789 noncommissioned officers and men.

The Government has decided to found a settlement at Bahia San Julian, Territory of Santa Cruz, and another on the banks of the Deseado River. .

According to reliable estimates, the sugar crop for 1899 amounted to 90,000 tons. Should this prove true, 10,000 tons will be offered for export.

The trans-Andean Railroad Company is engaged in the work of the extension of the line from Punta de Vacas to Las Cuevas, a distance of 31 kilometers.

A company has been formed in Buenos Ayres with a capital of \$1,500,000, national currency, to manufacture textiles and hats.

During the month of November, 1899, the immigrants arriving at the ports of the Argentine Republic numbered 13,241.

A school for military officers will be opened in April next in Buenos Ayres, and will have fifty pupils at its opening.

Reports from the northern section of Santa Fé Province say that there has been a considerable loss of live stock from protracted drought.

In the past year thirty-three officers were graduated from the Cadet School in Buenos Ayres.

According to "Le Nouveau Monde" a law has been passed for the free entry of all articles imported by the refrigerator companies.

The Government has given the post of Director of Hydraulic Works to a United States engineer.

The Government of the Republic has created a new national Territory out of the Punta de Atacama.

The Southern Railway Company will construct a branch line from Azul to Bahía Blanca.

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## BOLIVIA.

### PORTS OF ENTRY ON LAKE TITICACA.

A bill has been presented to the Sovereign National Convention, and approved by it, which creates several minor ports on Lake Titicaca. The bill is to the effect that the industrial, agricultural, and commercial interests of the towns contiguous to Lake Titicaca demand facilities for the export of their mining products to the smelting establishments existing in the Department of Puno, as do the rubber and other industries carried on in the Mapiri regions and the Provinces of Larecaja and Muñecas; that to this end Hnaicho, Sotolaya, Copacadana, and Carabuco are constituted minor ports; that a custom-house dependency is created at Desaguadero with a sufficient force to dispatch the mer-

chandise in transit to Corocoro and Oruro by the Desaguadero River; that the steamers on Lake Titicaca shall have free access to the ports named on their trips from Puno to Chililaya and return, without any requisite other than the license granted by the harbor master of Chililaya on verbal, written, or telegraphic application, with the intervention of the Bolivian Consul at Puno.

#### COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Consul-General of Bolivia at New York reports that during the month of January last there were exported to his country 2,149 packages, valued at \$19,251.69, as follows: To the custom-house agency of Antofagasta, 583 packages, valued at \$10,257.26; custom-house agency of Mollendo, 1,349 packages, valued at \$3,336.14; to the custom-house of Puerto Suarez, 42 packages, valued at \$1,206.29; custom-house of Tariga, 175 packages, valued at \$4,452.

#### PROJECTED RAILWAYS.

The French Chargé d'Affaires at La Paz reports that the Bolivian Government proposes to vote an appropriation of 120,000 *bolivianos* for the surveying of three railway lines, to wit, from Oruro to La Paz and to Lake Titicaca; from Oruro to Cochabamba, and from Challapata to Colquechaca. A sum of 50,000 *bolivianos* will, in addition, be granted for the surveying of a railroad starting from Potosi and ending at the Argentine frontier.

#### DEATH OF DR. PEDRO KRAMER.

A telegram from Para, Brazil, dated December 27, 1899, announced the death, at Manaus, of Dr. PEDRO KRAMER, Secretary of the Bolivian Legation at Rio de Janeiro and delegate of the Bolivian Government for the Rio Acre district.

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### BRAZIL.

#### TREASURY ACCOUNTS FOR 1899.

A dispatch to the "London Times," dated Rio de Janeiro, February 6, 1900, says that the Brazilian Treasury accounts for 1899 are approximately as follows: The revenue from customs (including 10 per cent in gold reduced to currency) is 266,000 *contos*, and the internal revenue amounts to 111,000 *contos*, making the total revenue for the year 377,000 *contos*. The ordinary expenditures were 250,000 *contos*, the currency incinerated amounted to 45,000 *contos*, while 33,000 *contos* were paid on account of the loan of £2,000,000 of 1897, which is now settled. The total expenditures were, therefore, 328,000 *contos*, leaving a surplus for the year of 49,000 *contos*.

A *contos* in Brazil is equal to 1,000 *milreis* or 1,000,000 *reis*. A gold *milreis* is worth 54.6 cents United States currency, but, owing to its depreciation at home, the paper *milreis* of Brazil is valued at about 14 cents United States currency.

#### FOUR HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

On April 25, 1500, for the first time in the history of the world, a sailing vessel cast its anchor in the waters of Porto Seguro Bay. This ship, with others, was commanded by PEDRO ALVARES CABRAL, who was on his way to India under the orders of the great navigator, VASCO DA GAMA. On May 2, of that year, CABRAL left this harbor for his Indian destination, but dispatched one of his vessels back to Lisbon to carry the news of the discovery to his sovereign. So far as the country now included in the boundaries of the Republic is concerned, CABRAL'S discovery was not the first made, as early in January of the same year the Spanish navigator VINCENT YÁNEZ PINZÓN, a companion of COLUMBUS, had discovered the mouth of the Amazon and the northern coast contiguous thereto. The Portuguese, however, have always ignored PINZÓN'S claim and date the discovery of the country from CABRAL'S visit.

CABRAL, taking possession of the country in the name of and in behalf of the Crown of Portugal, called it "Vera Cruz" (The True Cross), but the King, DOM EMMANOEL, in his notifications to the Catholic sovereigns, called it "Terra da Santa Cruz" (Land of the Holy Cross). By common usage both of these titles were replaced as early as 1503 by the single word "Brazil," which was the name of the then principal product, a dyewood.

Since January 1, 1900, under the auspices of a private organization of patriotic citizens, entitled "Associação do Quarto Centenario do Descobrimento do Brazil" (Association of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Discovery of Brazil), there have been, or will hereafter be, numerous exercises and celebrations of this fourth centennial anniversary. The only official cognizance taken by the Government, so far as has been reported, has been the issuance of a special set of commemorative postage stamps, which are fully described in a separate article in the present issue of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

The following is the programme of the arrangements and the exercises provided for by the Association, the first of which has been successfully carried out:

1. Religious demonstrations, begun on January 1 by the reproduction of "The First Mass of Brazil."
2. Naval festivities and an international regatta.
3. Artistic festivities—The presentation of a national commemorative opera.
4. Popular festivities.



5. The erection of a commemorative monument in one of the public squares of the capital on May 3.

6. Publication of "Livro do Quarto Centenario O Brazil: 1500-1900" (The Book of the Fourth Centennial of Brazil, 1500-1900). This work will comprise four volumes of 400 pages each and will show the progress made by Brazil in every branch of human activity.

7. Great representative or popular meetings, or "congresses."

8. Coinage of memorial medallions in gold, silver, and bronze.

The Livro do Centenario, besides giving a historical sketch of commemorative exercises, will contain fifteen special articles on the following subjects:

I. The discovery of Brazil—Settlement of the country—Administrative and political organization—Social evolution.

II. Religion—Religious orders—Charitable institutions.

III. Education—The press.

IV. Fine arts.

V. Literature.

VI. The judicial and social sciences.

VII. The mathematical, physical and natural sciences—Scientific works.

VIII. Medico-pharmaceutical sciences.

IX. Engineering—Railways, public works, public buildings in general.

X. Mining—Mineral resources.

XI. Industries—Extractive resources.

XII. Agriculture—Vegetable resources.

XIII. Commerce and navigation—Finances.

XIV. Military organization—Army and Navy—Civil militia—Fortifications.

XV. Foreign relations—Alliances, wars, and treaties.

To the author of the best national historical poem the Association offers a prize of one *contos* and a gold medal. The same prize is awarded to the author of the best national historical drama. Literary contests are also provided for, based on the following subjects: (1) The discovery of Brazil—Purposes of the voyage of PEDRO ALVARES CABRAL. (2) Agricultural problems in Brazil. (3) The economic and financial problems of the Republic. (4) International railways of South America.

The author of the best monograph on any of these subjects will be awarded a gold medal, while the author of the second best article will receive a silver medal.

The medals to be presented were manufactured by Mr. JULIUS MEILI, of Zurich, and were engraved by HANS FREI, of Basle, Switzerland. On the obverse they display a striking portrait of the discoverer, PEDRO ALVARES CABRAL, while on the reverse are the arms of Portugal and Brazil at different periods of their history, namely, Portugal in 1500 and in 1816, and Brazil in 1822 and 1889. The medals are

dedicated as follows: "Ao povo Luso-Braziliero." (To the Portuguese-Brazilian people.)

The President of the Republic and each of the members of his Cabinet, as an evidence of their interest in the contest, have subscribed 4 *contos* apiece to the funds of the Association, or a total of 28 *contos*.

A monument commemorative of this celebration will be inaugurated in Largo da Gloria, Rio de Janeiro, on May 3, 1900.

#### THE ACRE BOUNDARY.

The following protocol has been entered into with reference to the boundary between Brazil and Bolivia, which affects the territory of both countries on the Upper Amazon River:

On the 30th day of the month of October, 1899, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Dr. OLYNTHO MAXIMO DE MAGALHAES and Dr. D. LUIS SALINAS VEGA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bolivia, met in the city of Rio de Janeiro, in the Palace of Itamarity, Office of Foreign Affairs, and considering that, according to a recent exploration, the Protocol of February 19, 1895, relative to the frontier between the rivers Madeira and Javary, does not conform with the Treaty of March 26, 1867, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, agree as under:

1. The protocol of February 19, 1895, is substituted for the present, and in conformity with which will be made the demarcation of the said frontier.

(a) Within sixty days, counted from the date hereof, each of the two Governments will nominate a Commissioner and two assistants, one of which will substitute the Commissioner should occasion arise.

(b) The Mixed Commission constituted by the two so-named Commissioners shall verify the true position of the source, or the principal sources, of the River Javary, taking into account the operations effected in 1874 in the demarcation of the boundary between Brazil and Peru, and also that made in 1897 by Captain-Tenente AUGUSTO DA CUNHA GOMEZ.

2. The verification being accomplished, the Mixed Commission will proceed to the demarcation of the frontier from the true latitude up to the 10° 20' south, where the river Madeira commences, in conformity with the instructions which the two Governments have to mutually arrange by common accord in the protocol to be substituted for that of May 10, 1895.

3. If, at the end of one year from the signing of this protocol, one of the parties should fail to qualify its Commissioner for the said exploration and consequent demarcation, the other party hereto shall proceed alone to do this work, and the same shall be considered to be definite.

4. Until the Mixed Commission concludes the definite demarcation of the said frontier, there remains adopted as a provisional limit a line which, running from the river Madeira, in latitude 10° 20', proceeds to

latitude 7° 11'–18° 10' south, as fixed by Captain-Tenente AUGUSTO DA CUNHA GOMEZ, as the source of the river Javary.

5. The Bolivian custom-house on the Acre remains established at Port Alonso until, the frontier in the respective part being settled by demarcation, information as to its being in Bolivian territory shall be so confirmed, the Government of Bolivia undertaking, in the contrary case, to remove the same to a convenient place.

6. So long as no Brazilian consular authority exists at Port Alonzo, the customs-houses of Manãos and Belem (Pará) shall accept as valid, from November 15, 1899, the *guias* and other documents issued by the Administrator of Port Alonzo custom-house, provided they are accompanied by a certificate from the captain of the vessel receiving the cargo.

7. The customs-house inspector of the city of Belem (Pará) shall cancel on the present date the terms of responsibility heretofore exacted from exporters of *caucho* from that market, the current term of ninety days being fixed for the maturity of bills signed by them in payment of duties imposed by the custom-house of Port Alonzo.

In faith of the contents of the present protocol, it is signed in duplicate, one in Portuguese and the other in Spanish.

#### BILLS OF LADING AND CONSULAR INVOICES.

Under the tariff law which went into effect January 1, 1900, duplicate invoices will still be required in the case of goods shipped to Brazil, and one of these must accompany the goods shipped. The following is a translation of the regulations affecting this matter:

“In order to effect a clearance of goods at the port of arrival in Brazil, the presentation of the consular invoice, authenticated by the Brazilian Consul *at the place of origin*, is indispensable, whether the goods be dutiable, free of duty, or liable only to entrance fees. Its absence involves the application to the goods for which the consular invoice is missing of the maximum duties under the tariff, whatever may be the country of origin.

“Imported goods which may belong to different classes of the tariff, and which may have been discovered hidden or not, and of which no mention may have been made in the clearance papers, shall be regarded as contraband and seized according to proper procedure.” (This clause is applicable only when the goods found are by their nature of a distinctly different class from the goods declared for clearance, such as boots, umbrellas, or linen found inside machinery, etc.)

Further advice has been received stating that invoices of goods shipped to Brazil must be duly legalized by the Brazilian Consul *at the port of shipment*, on production of a certificate from the local authorities at the place of origin.

**THE SÃO PAULO RAILWAY, LIGHT, AND POWER COMPANY.**

The "Jornal do Commercio" of December 13, 1899, contains a very interesting description of the work in progress for this company.

For the traction of their tramways throughout the city of São Paulo, as well as for illumination and the supply of motive power to the various industries, the company is constructing a most important hydraulic installation on the River Tiété, near the small town of Parnahyba. The force developed will be transmitted in the form of electric energy to the city of São Paulo over a distance of about 35 kilometers. The total force it is proposed to develop is 16,000 horsepower, but the present installation is for only 8,000 horsepower, of which, after allowing for leakage, it is expected that 80 per cent, or, say, 6,400 horsepower, will be available in São Paulo city, the very moderate loss of 20 per cent being due to the high degree of perfection of the installation.

The fall availed of is only 22½ meters, which necessitates a very large body of water to give the force required, and the hydraulic works include a steel pipe 900 meters long with the enormous diameter of 4 meters; also a reservoir, of which one of the walls is to be 12 meters high by 200 meters long.

There will be four turbines, each of a capacity of 2,000 horsepower, the diameter being 1.2 meters and the speed 200 revolutions per minute. The electricity will be generated at 1,000 volts, transformed up to 20,000 volts for transmission to the outskirts of São Paulo city, where it will be reduced to 2,000 volts.

The installation is said to be in importance second only to those at Niagara, and it is expected that the works will be finished in July of the present year.

**LEASE OF THE TIMBAUBA AND PILAR RAILWAY.**

The Government has accepted the proposals of the "Great Western of Brazil Railway Company" for the lease and completion of the Government line from Timbauba to Pilar, in the State of Pernambuco, the construction of which was suspended in 1898. The lease is for fifty-three years, the principal clauses of the decree, dated October 30, 1899, being in substance as follows:

The Great Western Railway Company undertakes to finish the construction of this branch within the period of twenty months, to count from the date of the contract, and to work same for the period of fifty-three years, at the end of which this branch will revert to the State without payment of any kind. The company undertakes to commence traffic on the section to Limoeirinho within eight months, and two months after that to Itabaiana, and complete the connection between Nazareth and Timbauba within twenty months. The line must be maintained in condition to admit of a minimum velocity of 30 kilometers per hour. The Government on its part will cede to the con-

tracting company all the material existing in store or along the line formerly acquired for the construction of the line.

The Government reserves the right to redeem the line after the lapse of thirty years, the price being determined by the average net receipts of the last five years and by the state and the cost of the works and materials at the time, the value being payable in internal 5 per cent bonds if desired.

In case the Great Western Railway acquires the line of the Conde d'Eu Company, or amalgamates with it and constructs the connecting branch between Guaratiba and Nova Cruz without onus to the Federal Treasury, the reversion of the section now leased will be regulated by the terms of decree 9941 of October 20, 1883.

The lessee will deposit 20,000 *milreis* as guaranty of good faith and pay to the Treasury 3,000 *milreis* per annum to meet the cost of fiscalization.

Any excess over 8 per cent per annum earned on the capital employed in completing the line will revert to the Treasury in payment for the material and works handed over to the Company.

#### TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

Agriculture in Brazil, says the "Moniteur Officiel" of December 7, 1899, is at present in anything but a satisfactory state. Coffee raising has almost entirely ceased to be remunerative, and many agricultural products which could be raised in the country are brought from abroad. These products, the importation of which has increased considerably during the last few years, are rice, corn, lard, butter, potatoes, clover, etc. This condition of affairs is accounted for by the almost total lack of female labor in Brazilian agriculture and the lack of plows and agricultural instruments for working the soil.

Efforts have lately been made for the introduction of agricultural machinery in Brazil, and several agricultural societies have been founded. One of them, the National Agricultural Society, has had a short pamphlet on agricultural machinery, its employ, use, utility, and the necessity of its introduction in Brazil, printed for distribution.

Some of the dealers in agricultural machinery in Rio de Janeiro are: Mr. Isidor Haas (French) and Mr. Carlos Corteville (French) and Messrs. Cammyrano & Co. (Italians). Cia. Importadora São Paulo (Brazilians) is located in the city of São Paulo.

Agricultural instruments properly called are exempt from entrance duty. Motors and machinery are not considered as such, and pay 15 per cent *ad valorem*.

The importation of agricultural machinery is at present almost nothing, but it will undoubtedly take on a certain importance as soon as the cultivation of cereals, which the Government is endeavoring to encourage, will be seriously undertaken. In any case, it is indispensable to have representatives in these places, and it seems that only a syndicate

would be able to stand the necessary expense; for, in order to gain an insight into the needs, create a current in favor of certain makes of machinery, demonstrate their superiority, find and designate consignees, a stay of considerable length is essential, requiring expenses too heavy to be borne by one house. Too much stress can not be laid upon the importance of sending agents.

The following machines imported from Germany, the United States, and from England, are most employed in the State of Rio Grande do Sul:

Plows of different systems, 36,000 to 50,000 *reis*; churns, 100,000 *reis*; fanning mills, 380,000 *reis*; sickles, per dozen, 14,000 *reis*; scythes, each, 4,000 to 4,500 *reis*; straw cutters, each, 220,000 *reis*.

The houses selling agricultural machinery in this State are: Messrs. Bromberg & Co.; Marcenio, Mattos & Mattos; Carlos Daudt & Co., and Antonio dos Santos Roacho, all at Porto Alegre.

#### THE STATE OF MATTO GROSSO.

According to a report prepared by the Belgian Legation at Rio, published in the "Bulletin Commercial," Matto Grosso is considered the State of the future in Brazil, its natural resources, vegetable as well as mineral, being far greater than those of the other Brazilian States. Only two elements are lacking to place this immense territory at the head of the South American nations. These are:

First, an increase in the population, Matto Grosso only containing at the present time 92,000 inhabitants. The greater part of these live in a semicivilized state and do not in any way contribute to its prosperity.

Second, the establishment of means of communication by land, in order to supplement its rivers, which are very extensive.

At the present time only the southern part of the State of Matto Grosso is at all known, inhabited, or frequented—that is to say, above the fifteenth degree—while its greatest wealth is found in the northern part. It is there that rubber, gold, and precious stones are found in great quantities. The mineral wealth of this State is very great. Gold, silver, iron, manganese, copper, lead, and, in some districts, diamonds and precious stones, are found in abundance.

Iron, which is very abundant and rich, is generally found in the crystalloid state, peculiar to Brazil. At the Ouro Preto school an analysis made of the first sample of manganese ore extracted showed that it contained 46.7 of metallic manganese. Marine salt and saltpeter exist in large quantities in the marshes, lagoons, and bogs. Marble, slate, and porphyry are also found here.

The sale of vacant lands set apart to the mining industry has decreased since the enactment of the law of April 11, 1898, raising from 1,200 to 5,000 *reis* the cost of a hectare of these lands. The mining industry, which formerly was the principal factor in the development

of Matto Grosso, remains stationary, but it is probable that it will shortly revive, as concessions have recently been granted for the exploitation of manganese in the district of Corumba, and of gold on the Coxipo-Mirim district. Moreover, an important English syndicate has opened negotiations for the purchase of the gold deposits of the Cabaçal River in the district of San Luiz de Cacaeres.

The Government of Matto Grosso offers the greatest advantages to immigrants desirous of settling in this vast territory, and in 1896 a law was promulgated granting lands at absolutely free title. This liberal law favors the immigrant in allowing him to immediately become the owner of land which will be the base of his future fortune. In the other States of the Republic, and especially in São Paulo, where the number of the European colonists is very large, the European immigrants are hired to work on the coffee plantations, thus delaying and making it difficult for the colonists to become proprietors of the land they cultivate.

At Matto Grosso, on the contrary, scarcely has the immigrant landed before he can see his way clear to become the proprietor of a farm. The State provides for the subsistence of newly arrived families until they have gathered their first crops, and even furnishes them with cattle and agricultural instruments. The Government is endeavoring to organize the immigration service in as complete a manner as that of the neighboring States. In view of this a building is to be constructed where the new arrivals will be received and housed. The State is desirous, however, of profiting by past experience and avoid the inconvenience resulting from the introduction of great numbers at once, aiming at quality rather than quantity. "We desire," said the President in his last message, "an immigration which is in a certain sense an importation of labor, capital, and intelligence, and which brings to us a peaceful diffusion of blood, sentiments, customs, and ideas."

The crisis through which agriculture in Matto Grosso is passing on account of the lack of laborers, nearly everybody being engaged in mining, has obliged the State to introduce immigrants for its own account and to form agricultural centers. Agricultural colonies are already established and occupied by families coming from the State of Ceará. Every year an appropriation is voted to maintain the double current of immigration from abroad and from Ceará.

The soil of Matto Grosso is extremely fertile, the south producing wheat, cereals, and European fruits, the central part—where the vineyards give three crops a year—also produces corn, rice, manioc, and sugar cane. The north furnishes especially ipecacuanha, vanilla, a rubber which rivals that of Pará, and all the medicinal plants. Maté, the South American tea, thrives and is exported in large quantities to the other States of the Union, as well as to Uruguay and the Argentine Republic. The "Maté Laranjeira Company" has greatly contributed to the development of this culture and trade. An export duty of 800 *reis* per *arroba* (14½ kilos) is levied on this product.

The soil of Matto Grosso is very favorable to cattle raising on account of its disseminated fluvial system, which every year inundates the prairies, forming excellent pasturage lands for the cattle which abound. The largest cattle ranch in the world is found here—that of DESCALVADOS—on the Paraguay. These domains, measuring more than 600 square leagues, and containing more than 300,000 animals (horned cattle, pigs, and 600 horses), valued at 3,332,000 *francs*, belongs to a Belgian company having their headquarters at Antwerp. Their many products, meat extracts, hides, tongues, etc., are all shipped to Belgium and then sold in the principal European markets. These establishments, which are equipped with all modern conveniences and lighted by electricity, employ more than a thousand people.

The exploitation of rubber occupies all the unengaged hands in Matto Grosso. It is found in enormous quantities in the forest at the north of the State. The only hindrance to the development of this industry being the lack of laborers, for the gathering of the rubber is very simple labor, demanding no science whatever. A man taps the bark of as many trees as he can, places under the opening a small tin cup and each night gathers the *latex*, which he then coagulates to give it a form suitable for exportation. The maximum amount gathered in five months by one man is 1,200 kilograms (official figures). In July, 1899, this product was bought from individual laborers at 8,000 *reis* per kilogram, while its real value was 14 *francs* in Europe. This industry seems to offer a very good investment for European capital, the only difficulty for its exploitation on a large scale being the introduction of labor. If this condition were remedied, a company desirous of exploiting rubber in Matto Grosso would seemingly not encounter any difficulty. The Government of the State gives concessions almost gratuitously for a duration of twenty to thirty years and of several hundred miles in extent. In compensation the concessionaire should pay the export duties, and establish navigation on the rivers serving as outlets for his products.

At present the most rapid way, although at best a very long one, for reaching Cuyaba, capital of the State, from Rio, is to take the steamer to Montevideo and from there a smaller boat which ascends the Parana and Paraguay rivers. The "Brazilian Llyods," steamers subsidized by the Federal Government, make this trip twice a week, touching at Parana, La Paz, Bella Vista, Corrientas, Cerrito, Humayta, Pilar, Villa-Franca, Assumption, Rosarion, Conceição, Olympa, Coimbra, Albuquerque, Corumba, and Cuyaba.

The climate of Matto Grosso is naturally tropical, but healthy, especially in the south. During the summer, from December to April, rain is very abundant and storms frequent. The fauna is very abundant. A large trade is carried on in jaguar, chinchilla, ragondin, alligator, otter, and other skins, without counting that the feathers of the white heron or aigrette (2,000 *francs* the kilo) enrich in a short time the hunter who devotes himself to this industry.



The principal imports finding a ready sale in Matto Grosso are printed calicoes, cotton goods, firearms and ammunition, beer, potatoes, cutlery, shoes, iron utensils, flat-bottomed boats, wire for fencing, pianos, hardware, etc. All the sales are generally made with a profit of 50 to 100 per cent, payment at sight or in three months.

#### TERRITORY OF AMAPÁ.

On the 6th of December, 1899, the counter cases of Brazil and France in the arbitration of the boundary line between Brazil and French Guiana were delivered to the President of the Swiss Confederation. The cases of both parties were submitted on the 4th and 5th of last April.

The decision is to be made by the Federal Council and must be given within one year from the 6th of December, 1899. The Swiss Federal Council is composed of seven members, among whom are the President and Vice-President of the Confederation. This is the first time that it has ever been constituted as an arbitral tribunal.

The counter case of Brazil forms six volumes: Volume I contains the answer to the French case; Volumes II and III contain a series of 175 documents, with annotations and comments—many of these are preceded by explanatory notes in reply to allegations of the French case; Volume IV contains the original texts of documents, in Portuguese and Spanish, translated in the two preceding volumes; Volume V is an album of facsimiles of manuscripts; Volume VI is a large atlas (in folio), containing 86 maps with a preface on the contested territory. Each map is accompanied by an explanatory note.

The counter case of France forms one volume and five maps.

#### EXPEDITION TO THE XINGÚ.

The "Buenos Ayres Herald" has published the particulars of the adventures and hardships experienced by a German expedition to the River Xingú in Brazil as related by Dr. MANSFED. This gentleman states that the expedition, composed of twenty men, including the relator and Drs. MEYER, PILGER, and KOCH, and fifty-eight beasts of burden, left Cuyabá, the capital of the State of Matto Grosso, on March 15, 1899, for the confluence of the Formosa and Doruban rivers. Upon leaving this point, they were obliged to construct canoes for the navigation of the Romero River to the point where it enters the Xingú. Although they expected to complete this work in fourteen days, they were unable to proceed until the end of May, and consumed eight weeks' time instead of four.

During this period the expedition met with great hardships, the canoes capsizing no fewer than thirty-five times, thereby causing the loss of most of their effects including a valuable collection of photographs and the bulk of their provisions. They then had to rely chiefly for food upon game and fish. The former, however, was very scarce, and

monkeys formed a considerable part of their diet. After over three months of such fare, the expedition arrived at the mouth of the Xingú, when the return journey was commenced. Various Indian tribes, some of them hitherto unknown, were encountered and some very valuable information was obtained. Several members of the expedition were attacked with fever, and owing to the loss of all medical supplies, could not be relieved. The party returned to Cuyabá in October.

#### MICA DEPOSITS IN SÃO PAULO.

According to a report of the German Consul at São Paulo, published in the "Reichs-Anzeiger," mica of apparently good quality has been found in a quarry near the source of the Juquá, a tributary of the Ribeira, which flows into the sea near the port of Iguapé. The quarry is about two days' journey from both Santos and São Paulo, and the river Juquá, which is navigable by canoes throughout the greater part of its length, connects it with the port of Iguapé. A parcel of this mica was shipped to the United States, but for local reasons did not prove remunerative. A specimen has been examined by experts, and is said to be adapted for use in the electrical industry as an insulator.

There are also good deposits of mica near São Bernardo, not far from São Paulo, and good mica sheets have been found, too, in São Paulo de Muriaé, in the State of Minas Geraes. Some years ago sheets of mica about 40 centimeters square were obtained in Tahirás, in Goyaz, and exported, but the undertaking was not found to be a paying one and was given up.

#### COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

Postage stamps of the value of 100, 200, 500, and 700 *reis* were issued on the 1st of January, in Brazil, to commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Brazil. Their circulation is limited to the 28th of February, 1900.

The stamps of the value of 100 *reis* are pink, and measure 37 millimeters in width and 26 millimeters in length. They represent the "discovery of Brazil"—Indians from the rocks watch the approach of the Portuguese caravels. In the center of the stamp is a cross.

The 200-*reis* stamp is dark green on a yellow background, having the same dimensions as the 100-*reis* stamp. It represents the historical scene on the Ypiranga, bearing below the famous exclamation, "Independencia ou morte," and the date, "Sete de Setembro de 1882."

The stamps of the value of 500 *reis* are blue, measuring 26 millimeters in width and 37 in length. They represent the abolition of slavery—an angel rends the chains of the slaves. In white upon a blue background are the following words: At the top, "E. U. do Brazil"; below, in the center, "Correio." At the right of the center in blue on a white background are, "500 *reis*. 28 de Setembro de 1871"; and to the left, "500 *reis*. 13 de Maio de 1888." In the lower left-hand

corner is the date, "1900;" and in the lower right-hand corner, "1500."

The stamps of the value of 700 *reis* are green, having the same dimensions as the 500-*reis* stamps. They bear an allegorical figure of the Republic, which points the right arm to the date, "15 de Novembro de 1889," at the top of the stamp to the right. Below this, on the right, is the coat of arms of the Republic. In green on a white background are the words: At the top, "Estados Unidos do Brazil"; below, to the left, "700 *reis*." In white on a green background is the following lettering: In the upper right-hand corner the date, "1500"; and in the upper left-hand corner, "1900." Below, in the center, is the word "Correio."

#### SILK INDUSTRY IN PARANA.

The silk industry in Paraná has already made great progress, and the future of this industry is most promising. Mulberry trees are being planted and the silkworm raised in a number of the colonial centers. The production of this year amounted to 400 kilos, while that of last year was only 200 kilos. In 1900 it is expected that the production will reach 1,000 kilos, and if the production continues to increase at this rate it will amount in two or three years hence to thousands of kilos.

The silk industry was introduced into Paraná by Mr. EUCLIDES PLAISANT, a native of this State, but of Swiss and English extraction, who began by producing a handful of cocoons. The State government favored the industry by offering premiums to the producers of the silkworm, and even went so far as to give them pecuniary aid. Finally an annual subsidy of 3,200 *milreis* for ten years was granted, together with exemption for the same period of all import or export duties, and those engaged in this industry were given the privilege of selecting such vacant lands of the State as seemed to them best adapted to the cultivation of the mulberry tree.

With Mr. PLAISANT is associated Dr. ENÉAS FERRAZ, a native of São Paulo, the firm being known as PLAISANT & FERRAS. The company is erecting a silk mill in the vicinity of Corytiba, the capital of the State, where they have a large plantation of mulberry trees and produce hundreds of kilos of cocoons.

#### BRAZILIAN COFFEES IN THE ORIENT.

In referring to the efforts being made by the "Sociedade Nacional de Agricultura" to introduce Brazilian coffee into the oriental countries, Mr. GABRIEL RAMIE LALAB, in a letter published in the "Jornal do Commercio" of the 3d of January, says:

"All men of intelligence in Turkey and Syria, as well as in the whole Orient, know perfectly well that the coffee sold in these countries under different denominations comes from Brazil, and they also know of the principal producing centers of this product; but the lack of commercial relations between Brazil and these countries has greatly enhanced the price of this article.

"The direct exportation of Brazilian coffee to Syria could not fail to be most advantageous. Moreover, of all these countries, Syria is the one where the introduction of Brazilian coffee could most easily be made. But the coffee sent to Syria must be in the grain and unroasted, as the method of preparing coffee in Syria is very different from that of other countries. The grains are first roasted in an earthen vessel specially made for this purpose and afterwards reduced to a very fine powder. To this is added a little water and allowed to boil, the result being a very strong beverage with an exquisite aroma. Roasted coffee is never kept longer than eight days.

"One of the most important points to be gained in the undertaking to introduce or increase the consumption of Brazilian coffee in this country is the interest and aid of the religious authorities. Should their influence once be gained the people's preference for the coffee of Brazil is assured. Agencies for the sale of coffee should be established at Beirut, Jaffa, Tripoli, and Damascus."

#### OPENING OF A NEW RAILWAY.

Mr. EUGENE SEEGER, Consul-General of the United States, in a report dated Rio de Janeiro, December 15, 1899, says that "There will be opened on December 18 a new railway through a very important section of the State of Paraná, Southern Brazil. Its terminal point is Piauhy, and it passes the following stations, all situated in a rich agricultural and mineral district: Caxasubu, Castro, Tronco, Casambehly, Ponta Grossa, Jaboticabal, Entre Rios, Valinhos, Teixeira, Soares, Fernandes Pinheiro, Iraty, and Antonio de Reboucas. Its first section measures 95.60 meters from Ponta Grossa to Piauhy, and the second (south) 133,060 meters from Ponta Grossa to Antonia de Reboucas."

#### PROJECTED RAILWAY.

The "Brazilian Review" reports that a line is projected to connect Sao Paulo and Bahia, which, starting from the Conquista Station, on the Mogyana Railway, will pass through Araxá, Sacrémento, and Bagagem, and cross the Sierra dos Piloos to Paracatú, a center of pastoral industry.

The terminus of the line will be the port of Burity, on the Paracatú affluent of the São Francisco River. The length of the projected line is 500 kilometers, for which a guarantee is required from the different States interested. The line would, it is stated, serve a very fertile and productive zone.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Industrial League of Austria-Hungary is greatly exercised concerning the differential tariff on goods imported by Brazil from Austria-Hungary. Recently at a meeting of the principal exporters a deputation, headed by the president of the league, was appointed to

wait upon the Minister of Commerce to discuss the matter. The Minister expressed the hope that the Brazilian Government, taking into consideration the importance of the coffee imports by Austria-Hungary, would abstain from imposing the maximum tariff on Austrian products. The "Conference of Customs and Commissions" decided that the Austrian Minister at Rio de Janeiro be instructed to bring the matter to the attention of the Brazilian Government. The annual purchases of coffee from Brazil by Austria-Hungary amount to about 23,000,000 *florins*. Brazil takes goods from Austria to the amount of 4,000,000 *florins*.

The Bangú Spinning and Weaving Factory, belonging to the "Companhia Progreso Industrial do Brazil," is equipped with 1,221 looms, and in its various departments has 763 males and 440 females employees. The output of cotton fabrics is 36,000 meters per day. In 1898 the sales amounted to 5,361,941\$680, and during the first half of 1899 to over 4,000,000\$000. The Carioca factory employs about 1,000 operatives, has 950 looms, and manufactures about 800,000 meters of cotton each month.

Since January 1, 1900, a new and cheap arrangement has been provided for forwarding packages from Germany to Brazil and the States of the River Plate. The packages are not to exceed a weight of 10 kilos or a value of 300 *marks*. They are forwarded from Hamburg and Bremen direct, without any formalities other than their delivery through the agents of the steamship companies at the custom-houses at the ports of arrival.

The steamer *Dominic*, which arrived at New York on February 7, 1900, from Manãos and Para, brought a cargo of crude rubber. In this cargo were two immense pieces of rubber of spherical shape, each weighing between 800 and 900 pounds. They are said to be the largest specimens of crude rubber ever brought to the United States and will be sent to the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo for exhibition.

"La Société des Mines de Camaguan" is the title of a company which has been formed in Brussels, Belgium, with a capital of \$300,000, United States currency, to work some large deposits of copper ore in the Caca-para district of Rio Grande do Sul. It is stated that considerable machinery will be required, and that agents of the company will visit the United States to purchase supplies.

The "Comercio do Amazonas" complains of the want of foodstuffs in the markets at Manãos. It would appear that the lack of transportation facilities on the Amazon prevents the merchants of Manãos from receiving goods ordered from Rio de Janeiro and elsewhere. The popu-

lation of the city is growing at a rapid rate, and there is no communication with the outside world except by way of the Amazon.

On December 31, 1899, popular elections were held throughout Brazil for one-third of the members of the Federal Senate and for all the members of the Chamber of Deputies, being the fourth Legislature of the Republic. The results are regarded as strong confirmation of the general Presidential election which selected Dr. CAMPOS SALLES for the Chief Magistracy.

On December 14, 1899, President CAMPOS SALLES signed a decree approving a special grant of 200,000 *milreis* for the expenses of marking the boundary line between Brazil and the Argentine Republic. The boundary marks which have been destroyed on the line between Brazil and Peru will also be replaced.

The 1899 receipts of the general revenue office at Rio de Janeiro amounted to 22,887,537\$189 against 19,704,181\$451 in 1898. The customs receipts amounted to 78,861,341\$710 in 1899 and 86,774,458\$000 in 1898. The customs receipts at Pará amounted to 27,540,835\$552 in 1899 against 22,261,503\$000 in 1898.

Señor SEVERINO BIERA, having been nominated for the position of Governor of the State of Bahia, has resigned as Minister of Agriculture and Public Works. The duties of the office have been assumed temporarily by Señor ESPITACIO PESSON, the Minister of the Interior.

The "Südamerikanische Rundschau" says that the Minister of Finance has declared that the law shall now be enforced in Brazil compelling all banks (including foreign institutions) to have one-half of their nominal capital paid in.

The First Secretary of the Brazilian Legation, Senhor RAUL DE AMARAL, has arrived in Washington. He succeeds Senhor DE OLIVEIRA LIMA, lately promoted to the Brazilian Embassy at London.

A syndicate composed of Belgian and German capitalists, with a capital of \$3,000,000, has been formed to develop the rubber industry in Brazil. The syndicate is to establish a bank in Manaos.

Instructions were recently issued by the President of Brazil for the taking of the census of this Republic, which is to be completed by December 31, 1900.

The Government, in January last, imposed an additional tax of 10 per cent on imports from France and Italy, to take effect March 1, 1900.

The Supreme Court of Rio has resolved to admit women to the practice of law.

## CHILE.

## AREA AND POPULATION—POPULATION OF CITIES.

In the "Sinopsis Estadística" for 1898, recently issued, it is stated that the population of the Republic by the census of November 28, 1895, was 2,712,145, and that the estimated population on December 31, 1898, was 3,082,178. This gives an increase of 370,033. The urban population was returned at 1,240,353 and the rural at 1,471,792. The average density per square kilometer for the whole of the Republic is given as 3.60, the lowest ratio being in Magellan Territory, where it is but 0.02, and the highest being in the Province of Valparaiso, where it is 51.37. The total area of the Republic, after deducting that corresponding to the territory recently awarded to the Argentine Republic, is given as 690,356 square kilometers. "Consequently," says the Sinopsis, "Chile is larger than any European nation excepting Russia, being half as large again as Germany, France, and Spain, one and one-half times larger than Great Britain and Italy, and twenty-three times larger than Belgium." The areas of the subdivisions of the Republic, proceeding in the order from south to north, with their total and foreign population according to the census of 1895, and their respective density of population, were as follows:

Provinces.	Area.	Total population.	Foreign population.	Density.
	<i>Sq. kilom.</i>			
Magellan Territory.....	195,000	5,170	1,669	0.02
Chiloé.....	10,384	77,750	301	7.51
Llanquihue.....	20,260	78,315	1,133	3.87
Valdivia.....	21,536	60,687	973	2.82
Cautin.....	8,100	78,221	1,349	9.66
Malleco.....	7,400	98,052	3,034	12.25
Biobío.....	10,769	88,749	698	8.24
Arauco.....	11,000	59,237	397	5.39
Concepcion.....	9,155	188,190	4,005	20.55
Nuble.....	9,210	152,935	574	16.61
Maule.....	7,591	119,791	217	11.27
Linares.....	9,036	101,858	503	11.26
Talca.....	9,527	128,961	988	13.54
Curicó.....	7,545	103,242	437	13.68
Colchagua.....	9,829	157,566	511	16.03
O'Higgins.....	6,537	85,277	552	13.05
Santiago.....	13,527	415,636	12,120	30.73
Valparaiso.....	4,297	220,756	11,092	51.37
Aconcagua.....	16,126	113,165	554	7.02
Coquimbo.....	33,339	160,898	1,104	4.82
Atacama.....	73,500	59,713	4,003	0.81
Antofagasta.....	124,140	44,685	7,053	0.36
Tarapacá.....	50,000	89,751	19,545	1.80
Tacna.....	22,500	24,160	.....	1.07
	690,356	2,712,145	72,812	3.60

According to the census of 1885 the total foreign population was 65,000. Of the 72,812 foreigners in 1895, 42,105 were Europeans and 29,687 Americans. Among the natives of America were 701 citizens of the United States, 7,531 Argentines, 6,654 Bolivians, 103 Brazilians, 33

Canadians, 45 Central Americans, 135 Colombians, 10 Cubans, 413 Ecuadorans, 127 Mexicans, 40 Paraguayans, 13,695 Peruvians, 186 Uruguayans, and 14 Venezuelans.

The number of inhabitants in each of the provincial capitals, according to the census of 1895, was as follows, naming them in the order of Provinces and Territories as they occur in the table given previously:

Punta Arenas .....	3, 227	Talca .....	33, 232
Ancud .....	3, 182	Curicó .....	12, 669
Puerto Montt .....	3, 480	San Fernando .....	7, 447
Valdivia .....	8, 060	Rancagua .....	6, 665
Temuco .....	7, 078	Santiago .....	256, 413
Angol .....	7, 056	Valparaíso .....	122, 447
Los Angeles .....	7, 868	San Felipe .....	11, 313
Lebu .....	2, 784	La Serena .....	15, 712
Concepción .....	39, 837	Copiapó .....	9, 301
Chillán .....	28, 738	Antofagasta .....	13, 530
Cauquenes .....	8, 574	Iquique .....	33, 031
Linares .....	7, 331	Tacna .....	9, 418

The estimated population of each of the principal cities on December 31, 1898, is given thus:

Santiago .....	311, 704	Iquique .....	30, 000
Valparaíso .....	140, 262	Antofagasta .....	16, 795
Concepcion .....	51, 781	Curicó .....	14, 325
Talca .....	40, 237	Talcahuano .....	14, 284
Chillán .....	32, 769		

#### EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

The Chilean Constitution provides for the establishment of a "Superintendency of Education," charged with the duty of watching over education in general and subject to the Government. This superintendence is discharged by a Council of Public Instruction, composed of fourteen members, as follows: The Minister of Public Instruction, who is ex officio chairman; the rector of the university; the secretary of the same; the five deans of the faculties of theology, law, and political sciences, medicine and pharmacy, physical sciences and mathematics, philosophy and humanities; the rector of the national institute; three members named by the President of the Republic, and two members elected by the university. This Council is charged with the duty of preparing plans of studies and internal regulations for public educational establishments, of final examinations for university degrees, and of intervening in the appointment, dismissal, or suspension of professors, and, generally, in everything relating to secondary and superior education, subject, however, to the approval of the President of the Republic. There is complete liberty in matters of education. The State, however, through the Council of Public Instruction, reserves the right to grant degrees for the liberal professions.

State education is given gratuitously and is divided into superior, secondary, and primary. The first and second are provided in the two



sections, university and secondary, of the National Institute in Santiago, and in the provincial lyceums, and they include law, physics, mathematics, medicine, humanities, and fine arts. Instruction of the third class is imparted in the primary schools, of which there were 1,368 in 1898. The number of students enrolled at the National Institute in 1898 was 1,278. The university degrees granted in 1897 and 1898 numbered, respectively, 510 and 555.

The number of primary schools in 1898 was, as already stated, 1,368, of which number 417 were for boys; 273 were for girls, and 678 were for boys and girls. Of the boys' schools 205 were urban and 216 were rural; of the girls', 195 were urban and 78 rural, and of the boys' and girls', 119 were urban and 559 rural. The total number of teachers was 2,308, of whom 755 were males and 1,553 were females. The total number of scholars enrolled was 99,831, of whom 48,192 were boys and 51,689 were girls. The average attendance was 65,619, of which number 31,195 were boys and 34,424 were girls.

The money expended for public instruction in 1898 amounted to \$2,085,072, or \$31.76 per capita.

Besides the public schools in 1898 there were 396 private schools, with an average attendance of 15,785, exclusive of those in the Provinces of Tacna, Santiago, O'Higgins, Colchagua, and Ñuble, of which no returns are available.

#### GENERAL STATISTICAL ITEMS.

The Central Statistical Office of Santiago recently published data concerning the country during the year 1898. Some of the more important subjects and figures covered by these statistics are as follows:

The general movement of the population during the year mentioned was, births, 104,536; marriages, 12,921; deaths, 83,919. The length of State railroads was 1,986.5 kilometers; of the private railroads, 2,300 kilometers. The length of the State telegraph lines was 16,052,085 meters, 540.5 kilometers of which were constructed during the year named. The number of public schools for primary instruction opened during the year was 1,368. There were in the Republic during the same period 23 banks of issue, with a cash capital of \$40,689,665. The issue of all kinds of securities of the mortgage banks, numbering 16, on December 31, 1898, was \$155,827,119. The estimated value of private property, city and suburban, in all the provinces of Chile, amounted to \$1,386,025,688, as follows: City, \$633,204,303; surburban, \$752,821,385.

#### SPANISH-ITALIAN BANK IN VALPARAISO.

Several of the most prominent members of the Spanish and Italian colonies of Valparaiso in December, 1899, held a meeting to discuss the establishment of a Hispano-Italian Bank in that city. The results of the meeting were crystallized in resolutions to the effect that a joint

stock association should be formed to do business as a deposit, loan, and discount bank, to be styled the "Banco Español-Italiano;" the domicile of the bank is to be Valparaíso, with a branch at Santiago, and agencies in such cities as the administrative council shall determine. The capital is to be 5,000,000 *pesos*, divided into 50,000 shares of 100 *pesos* each, fully paid. The subscriptions are to be paid as follows: Five per cent at the time of subscribing, 20 per cent on signing the articles of incorporation, and the remainder at the rate of 5 per cent per month until fully paid. The 5 per cent payments last mentioned will be paid commencing thirty days after the date of the articles of incorporation. The council of administration is to be composed of ten stockholders, five Spaniards and five Italians.

#### DISCOVERY OF A SAURIAN FOSSIL.

A fossil was recently discovered in the form of the skeleton of an animal in the northeastern part of the harbor of Caldera. The skeleton was partially buried in a clayey rock, which had been considerably washed away by the incoming and outgoing tide. The fossil is in the form of a great saurian, with an enormous head and very long tail, provided only with anterior feet. The dimensions of the skeleton are: Head, 2 meters 91 centimeters in length by 1 meter and 40 centimeters in width; body, 3 meters long by 1 meter 40 centimeters in width; and the tail, 2 meters 9 centimeters in length, giving a total length from tip of nose to end of tail of 8 meters (26.25 feet), the width of the first vertebra of the tail being 65 centimeters. The ground where the specimen was found belongs without doubt to the Tertiary period, perhaps to the Pliocene.

"El Mercurio," of Valparaíso, says in this respect that "As to the paleontological importance of the specimen, it may be estimated by the relative antiquity of the strata in which it lies and by the height of these, which shows a duration of some thousands of centuries, taking as a basis of computation, aside from these data, the time which would be consumed in the formation of the said strata, which geology estimates at millions of years." Several photographs of the fossil were taken, and owing to the form it presents, united to the incrustating stone, has given rise to many errors of classification. By order of the Government the fossil has been removed from its bed, and when restored will be a splendid specimen, which will be added to the already rich fossil fauna of the National Museum.

It is a singular coincidence that similar remains were recently found in the United States. The American Museum of Natural History has acquired a very complete skeleton of a mosasaur from the State of Kansas, the study of which has led Dr. H. F. OSBORN to the conclusion that these gigantic animals are a very ancient marine offshoot of the order of the *lacertilia* or lizards, and that they constitute a distinct subdivision of that order. This particular specimen is called the

"ram-nosed tylosur," and a careful restoration showing its probable appearance in life has been made by CHARLES KNIGHT. It was a very powerful swimmer when it dwelt in the ancient sea that covered Kansas. This specimen was about 29 feet long.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

During the month of November, 1899, several deposits of borates were discovered in the Department of Antofagasta a short distance from Toconao. The deposits are about 18 leagues from end to end, and prospecting has demonstrated that the borate is in layers of from 1 to 2 meters thick.

The Agua Santa Nitrate and Railway Company has just bought the Valparaiso Nitrate Works and grounds. The purchase price is £360,000, of which £100,000 has been paid cash, £50,000 is payable on June 30, 1900, and the balance in 6 half-yearly instalments, beginning June 30, 1901. Interest is also to be paid on amounts outstanding at the rate of 6 per cent per annum.

The Government has promulgated a law of Congress approving the contract entered into between the latter and the Government for the introduction and establishing as colonists of 5,000 families of different nationalities in the provinces of Cantin, Valdivia, Llanquihne, and Chiloé.

Work on the railroad between Pitrufulquen and Loncoche in the Province of Temuco is being vigorously prosecuted, some 30 kilometers being already leveled and ready for the rails. This section will have three stations, Gorbea, Almagro, and Lastarria.

An act of Congress has been promulgated enabling the Government to accept the sum of £8,000 bequeathed by the will of Mr. AGUSTIN EDWARDS for the erection of a monument "in honor of the great statesmen MANUEL MONTT and ANTONIO VARAS."

The Chilean Senate has resolved to impose for three years a surcharge of 60 per cent on the import duties payable by knit goods, and other similar articles which may compete with the domestic manufactures.

There is a movement on the part of the Government to develop stock raising in the Territory of the Magellans now that it has been decided not to lower the rate of duty on cattle imported from the Argentine Republic.

The Minister of Public Works recently stated in the Chamber of Deputies that the Government would shortly present a general plan for the construction of a new railroad line in the Republic.

The local press intimates that it is the intention of the Government to abolish a number of consular posts in Paraguay and Uruguay. The newspapers almost unanimously advise against such procedure.

The Government has approved the plans for reconstructing the Intendency Building at Valparaiso, destroyed by the tidal wave of last year, at a cost of 250,000 *pesos*.

The President of the Republic recently requested authority of the Congress to expend \$1,500,000 in providing a reservoir to furnish water to the city of Valparaiso.

The Connecticut Telephone and Electrical Company, of Meriden, Conn., shipped 6 tons of electrical apparatus to Chile during the last week in December, 1899.

A company is being formed in Santiago with a capital of \$500,000 for the exploitation of the fishing industry, to furnish Santiago with fresh fish and shellfish.

A petroleum refinery is to be erected at Valparaiso for reducing the crude product brought from Peru and from Punta Arenas, Chile.

The Government intends to inaugurate with all due formalities an industrial labor exposition in September, 1900.

On December 8, 1899, a new daily paper, to be known as "La Nación," made its appearance in the city of Santiago.

The municipal authorities of Santiago have authorized the sale of horse flesh to the public.

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## COLOMBIA.

### PRINCIPAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

A report from the French Minister at Bogotá says in part that, although Colombia has important wheat fields in the temperate zones, the production is not sufficient for the home demand, and it is the United States that yearly furnishes the 4,000,000 kilograms necessary to make up the deficiency. The United States also supplies the corn and butter. Half of the rice comes from England, while France furnishes the prepared foods, potatoes, raisins, candy, preserves, etc.

The refined sugar comes almost exclusively from the United States; the demand for it is, however, small, since Colombia produces sugar, and although the methods for refining it are very crude, the lower price will always make it a successful competitor with the foreign article. The United States holds almost an exclusive monopoly of the market for kerosene, stearine candles, and coal.

As Colombia produces neither grapes nor hops, it is naturally depend-

ent upon other countries for its wines and liquors, most of which come from France, while Germany supplies 50 per cent of the beer, the balance coming from England and the United States. About ten years ago a company established a large brewery in Bogotá, the workmen being brought over from Germany. The business has prospered, yielding good dividends. The same concern also manufactures mineral waters.

Manufactured rubber of all kinds is imported about equally from France, England, Germany, and the United States. The demand is, however, limited. Glassware finds a very ready sale in spite of its high price, due to the loss occasioned by the difficulty of transportation over roads scarcely laid out, and which during the wet season become almost impassable. Table glassware from the United States and France, mirrors and manufactured glass from Germany, and window glass, bottles, and flacons from France are seen in the shops. Tanned hides are imported in equal parts from France and Germany, trunks and valises from the United States, fine shoes from France, and common footwear from England, saddlery being imported almost exclusively from France.

The principal articles imported from the United States are drugs, chemical products, paints, ice-making machines and chemicals, braids and brooms, organs and harmoniums, furniture, carriages, railway and street cars, vessels and their machinery, explosives, wire fencing, agricultural machinery, sewing machines, steam pumps, electric light, telegraph and telephone wire, pickaxes, hatchets, *machetes*, and soap. Cotton and woolen goods, hosiery, laces, and trimmings are furnished by England, France, and Germany.

England is first in importance as a purchaser of Colombian products, followed by the United States, France, Venezuela, and Germany in the order named.

#### THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY.

There was recently formed in London a very strong company under the title of "The Colombian National Railway Company, Limited," with a capital of £900,000 in ordinary shares, £200,000 in mortgage bonds of the first class, and £400,000 in mortgage bonds of the second class. It is the intention of the company to finish the building of the railroad now under construction from Girardot, on the Magdalena River, the principal water course of the country, to a juncture with the Sabana Railroad. When this road is completed, the present long and tedious horse or mule back ride from the river to the capital will be a thing of the past. The road will open up a very rich territory, which is awaiting the energetic impulse of the miner, farmer, artisan, and business man. With the railroad from Girardot to Bogotá, and with others to be constructed, Colombia will attain the rank to which she is entitled among South American countries.

**OBLIGATIONS OF THE PANAMA RAILWAY COMPANY.**

The Minister of Finance at Bogotá recently declared that the Panama Railway Company had failed to comply with the obligations it assume in the contract with the Government of Colombia entered into in the the year 1867. In that contract it was stipulated that the company shall extend its line to the deep waters in Panama Bay. The Government contends that this stipulation has not been carried out, while the company asserts that it has fulfilled all the stipulations of the said contract. It is probable that the matter will be carried to the Colombian courts.

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**COSTA RICA.****MINES AND MINERALS OF THE REPUBLIC.**

At the request of the United States Legation in San José the National Bureau of Statistics prepared a report on mines in the Republic, a translation of which, made at the legation, is published below. The report is accompanied by a copy of the Spanish translation of the work on the Costa Rican mines, published in 1891 by Dr. ERNEST MELLIS, Mining Engineer, which has been filed in the library of the Bureau.

The Director of the Bureau of Statistics, Señor MANUEL ARAGÓN, reports under a late date that owing to the raise in the price of copper the interest in the Costa Rican copper mines has largely augmented of late, and some of them are paying handsome profits. He says, referring to the famous copper mine "Las Cóncevas," situated in the neighborhood of the city of Cartago, that a company has been formed, composed of Don EZEQUIEL GUTIERREZ, the owner of the mine, and Messrs. WALTER J. FORD and ROBERT A. CRESPI, of London, and W. STAINFORD, of Hamburg, with a capital sufficient to carry on large operations. These parties have renovated the old tunnels and shafts, have begun new works, and have succeeded in striking the principal vein, which is so rich that Messrs. FORD and CRESPI, who are engaged in working gold mines, assert that the profits of "Las Cóncevas" will be greater than those derived from these. Another very rich copper mine has lately been discovered on the line of a wagon road being built between Orosí and the General Plains, on the Pacific side. Señor MATAMOROS, who is the owner of this mine and is an intelligent mechanic, has made in his shops and used in his machinery pieces from the metal taken from this mine.

The translated report of Señor ARAGÓN, Director-General of Statistics, referred to above, is as follows:

"I have the honor to reply to your note of yesterday, which refers to that of April 12, last, both requesting information regarding the development of mines, their products, methods of working, and existing legislation affecting them.

"Regarding the last point, the Judge of Administrative Litigation, to whom all matters regarding the mines are referred, informs me that such laws as are in force may be reduced to the provisions contained in the mining statute of June 26, 1830, and the laws of July 10, 1848, of October 16, 1855, of June 8, 1864, of July 28, 1868, and of May 10, 1869. Ordinary suits at law are tried under the above-mentioned statutes without reference to the other laws cited, since almost all of the latter refer to matters of administration.

"The law of 1869 states that the minerals copper, iron, and lead, so far as proprietary rights are concerned, shall be subject to the provisions of the mining statute annulling the amendment made by the law of 1855. It likewise provides that only reefs, placers, or deposits of metals, ores, or precious stones may be entered and taken up as private property, and in Article II it enlarges and extends the provisions laid down in sections 42, 48, and 88 of the statute. The law of 1869 allows aliens to enter lands under the same conditions as natives, which hitherto had not been permitted.

"Examination of the preceding laws leads us to concur with the opinion of the Judge of Administrative Litigation that a new mining law should be enacted which, having present conditions in view, should regulate the manner of acquiring mines as well as the obligation of the miners and the rights of the owners of the lands where the mines are situated.

"Numerous claims to mines in various parts of the country, especially on the Pacific slope, have been filed. It would not be difficult to make an extract of the claims filed between 1893 and the present time, but for this work to be of any value in this investigation it would be necessary to ascertain which of these claims are still held and operated, since many necessarily have lapsed by the operation of the law, which requires that they be worked to retain title.

"Whenever the operation of a mine assumes any importance it is at once known; therefore, if any of these claims are of any consequence they will be found in the following list of mines in operation."

(In 1895 the Bureau of Statistics published a list of mines known in 1892, and mention has already been made of claims entered from 1893 to the present time.)

*List of mines in the Republic in 1892.*

Name.	Location.	Class of mineral.
La Trinidad .....	Cirnelitas.....	Gold and silver.
La Union .....	do .....	Do.
Santa Rita .....	do .....	Do.
Bella Vista .....	do .....	Do.
Costa Rica .....	do .....	Do.
La Zagala .....	do .....	Do.
La Zamora .....	do .....	Do.
Buenaventura .....	do .....	Do.
San José .....	do .....	Do.
Sacra Familia .....	Monte Aguacate.....	Do.
La Minita .....	do .....	Do.

*List of mines in the Republic in 1892—Continued.*

Name.	Location.	Class of mineral.
Mina de los Cartros.....	Corralillo .....	Gold and silver.
San Rafael.....	do .....	Do.
Mina de los Oreamunos.....	do .....	Do.
Machuca.....	do .....	Do.
Trinidad del Aguacate .....	do .....	Do.
Quebrada Honda .....	Quebrada Honda .....	Do.
Pena Grande.....	Cerro de San Ramón.....	Do.
Mina de Acosta.....	Margenes del Río Jesús.....	Do.
Las Cáncovas.....	Cartago.....	Copper.
Palmares .....	Cordillera del Aguacate .....	Gold, silver, and lead.
Mancuerna .....	Costa del Sardinal .....	Copper.
Mata Palo .....	do .....	Do.
Puerta de Palacio.....	do .....	Do.
Hoja Chigues .....	do .....	Do.
Chapernal .....	do .....	Do.

“The mines now in operation, according to information obtained recently, are as follows:

Name of mine.	Location.
Tres Amigos .....	Abangares.
La Trinidad .....	Miramar.
Minas Monte Aguacate.....	Monte Aguacate.
Thayer Mining and Milling Co.: Bella Vista .....	Miramar.
Montezuma.....	Do.
Costa Rica Union Mining Co., La Union.....	Ciruelitas.

“Other mining enterprises are either projected or are erecting plants. Among them are Sindicato de Macacona, Minas de Cobre del Sardinal, Sindicato del Guancaste, Boston and Central American Mining and Development Company, Minas de Machuca Alta, Costa Rica-Pacific Gold Mining Company, and Mina San Gerardo.

“Regarding these undertakings this office is unable to furnish any exact information, as it has received none from those interested.

“Concerning mines in operation the following data have been collected:

“Tres Amigos mine is situated in Abangares, canton of Cañas, Province of Guanacaste, about 40 miles from Puntarenas, and has, in addition to extensive beds of ores which assay from 1 ounce 10 pennyweights 8 grains to 3 ounces 16 pennyweights 4 grains of silver per ton, 2,000 hectares of fertile land, for the greater part wooded.

“The working of this mine was begun about three or four years ago, but with such limited capital that they were scarcely able to erect 10 small stamps and a modest installation for treating the ore by the old quicksilver process.

“In spite of this it has produced from 3,000 to 4,000 *pesos* a month, which has served to equip the mine with various and extensive appliances to open new veins, to construct a cart road 50 kilometers in length, a good lodging house and several small ones for the peons or laborers, and, lastly, a tramway for the transportation of the ore.



Recently it has secured a loan which is to be used in installing a plant for the treatment of ores by the cyanide of potash method, from which great results are expected, judging by what has already been accomplished by attempts on a small scale. The new plant will treat 900 tons of ore a month.

"With reference to La Trinidad (Miramar) and mines of the Aguacate (district of the same name), Mr. WALTER J. FORD says:

"Regarding La Trinidad, which belongs to an English company, we are now expecting an expert who is coming to examine it, since thus far the operations of this mine have been of little importance and have been carried on only to preserve title.

"The same may be said of the mines of Monte del Aguacate, since these ores generally are intractable and require a costly plant for their reduction. Steps are now being taken, with the assistance of a foreign company, to secure the necessary plant.

"It is to be hoped, as much for the interests of the country as for that of the persons directly concerned, that the cyanide process, which is about to be tried in the Tres Amigos mine and in the Miramar district, will yield good results. By the introduction of this process the mining industry in the Transvaal brought a great and lasting benefit to that country.'

"Regarding the Bella Vista mine (Miramar, Thayer Mining and Milling Company), its manager, Mr. F. W. CONN, says:

"I take pleasure in submitting to you the following details regarding the Bella Vista Mining and Milling Company: Employees, 137. Mines: Bella Vista, 2,500 feet of tunneling; Ojoche, 150 feet of tunneling; First Extension Bella Vista, 50 feet of tunneling. Power: Water, 80 horsepower. Equipment: Twenty stamps, 850 pounds each; cyanide plant, 30 tons per day; aerial tramway, 1,200 feet. Several veins which yield from 5 pesos (\$5) up to 500 pesos (\$500) in gold and silver.'

"Mr. F. W. CONN is also manager of the Montezuma mine (Miramar, Thayer Mining and Milling Company) enterprise, regarding which he gives the following particulars:

"Employees, 151. Mines: Montezuma, 1,027 feet of tunneling; San Antonio, 805 feet of tunneling; San Rafael, 250 feet of tunneling; Quien Sabe, 75 feet of tunneling; Second Extension Bella Vista, 60 feet of tunneling; Popenoe, Cowderly, 110 feet of tunneling. Power: Water, 150 horsepower. Equipment: Twenty stamps, 850 pounds each (under construction); cyanide plant, 50 tons per day (projected). Several veins which yield from 5 pesos (\$5) to 200 pesos (\$200) in gold and silver.'

"Mr. C. H. COLBURN, manager of the Costa Rica Union Mining Company, says of this enterprise that 'the principal work has been done at the "Santa Rita" mine, which is a very rich vein, averaging 12 to 15 feet in width, running almost northwest to southeast.

"This mine was formerly worked by means of four tunnels, judging by the depths to which they penetrate—300 feet—and, by the excava-

tions and the refuse, a vast amount of mineral must have been taken from it.

“The value of the ore is not high, assaying from \$8 to \$10 per ton; still the product of a vein so wide, with the necessary facilities for extracting the metal, is enough to render its operation highly satisfactory.

“The ore is intractable, not milling freely, but more satisfactory processes are being tried concerning which particulars will be given when the experiments now under way have been concluded.

“The principal work now in process consists of repairs. A battery of 40 stamps is being placed in position; 20 are already in use, and the others will be installed in a short time.

“Owing to the lack of water the plant has not been in operation long enough to enable a satisfactory estimate of the product to be made.

“The water which furnished the motive power is taken from a creek to the north, and is carried by a trench around the mountain until it discharges into an iron tube 14 inches in diameter. There is a fall of 350 feet. This power is sufficient for all the work for at least ten months in the year.

“There are numerous other veins which show indications of being valuable, among them “San Lucas,” “Los Angeles,” and “San Nicolas.” Experiments are being conducted, and when positive information has been obtained particulars will be furnished.

“There are now employed 75 to 100 laborers, and as the work is extended the number will be increased.

“What has thus far been accomplished in the Union mine leads to the belief that proper development of the property would bring ample rewards, and that the mining industry of Costa Rica would thereby secure the reputation it deserves.

“Regarding the methods of working, it appears that the extraction of the metal by the ordinary processes is difficult; but it is believed that the cyanide treatment will remove the difficulty.”

“No exact statement of the product of the mines has been made, owing to the fact that, the export of bullion being entirely unrestricted, it is shipped in the majority of cases without the knowledge of the Bureau of Statistics. However, persons acquainted with the products of our mines estimate the value of the gold exported in bars at no less than \$400,000 in gold per annum.

“Analyses of the bullion obtained from our mines have not been published, and we are unable to give data regarding the law concerning the exportation of gold and silver.

“In 1891 the National Printing Works issued a work written by an English mining engineer, Mr. MELLISS, regarding the mines of Aguacate and of Castros. This work, translated from the English by Don MANUEL CARAZO PERALTA and annotated by Don FRANCISCO MARÍA IGLESIAS, contains much valuable information concerning our mineral wealth.”

## COFFEE TRADE WITH FRANCE.

From an article recently published in a French paper it appears that the direct shipments of coffee from Costa Rica to France have greatly decreased. This fact is much deplored by the French shippers, who attribute the loss to the insufficiency of their merchant marine. To-day most of the coffee destined for France is sent to the United States, from whence it is reshipped. A marked tendency has been noticed for some time on the part of merchandise and travelers from Central America to Europe to journey by way of New York, this being a more convenient and shorter route. The low price of the German and English freight companies naturally attracts the Costa Rican shippers to London, Liverpool, and Hamburg, rather than to Havre and Bordeaux. But it is especially toward New Orleans and New York, which offer the double advantage of geographical proximity and the facility of rapid, frequent, and direct communication, that the greater current of Costa Rican exportations is directed.

Formerly Havre, Nantes, and Bordeaux were directly connected with Central America by a number of sailing vessels, which went around Cape Horn and followed the Pacific coast, touching at Callao, Guayaquil, Punta Arenas, Corinto, La Libertad, and San José de Guatemala, landing French products in these ports, in exchange for which they brought back guano, nitrate, cacao, coffee, indigo, cabinet woods, etc. The relations of these regions with France were then, if not quicker, at least more direct, cheaper, and more convenient, and the French trade in Costa Rican coffee was very important.

To-day, since the construction of the Atlantic Railroad and the opening of the port of Limon, these communications with Costa Rica by French sailing vessels do not exist. During the last three years only one French vessel entered Punta Arenas.

The Costa Rican dealers claim that they are ready to engage in trade with France, even in spite of the difficulties of direct maritime communications and the duties, providing France will make them the same terms that they obtain from the United States and England, and from Germany especially. On one bag of coffee an importer of these countries generally remits three or four months in advance of the receipt of the goods about 95 per cent of the average price of the article. On the other hand, French houses rarely consent to make any advances and offer at most, with various restrictions, 50 per cent of the intrinsic value. So it is not astonishing that Costa Rica turns to Germany, England, and the United States, and consequently the Anglo-Saxon and German markets are the only factors in the Costa Rican export movement.

Outside of coffee, there exist in Costa Rica innumerable other natural products susceptible of becoming of great importance in the future, and which could even now be developed into a very active foreign trade.

In 1890, bananas represented 6 per cent of the total exports, and now they amount to 8 per cent and are increasing constantly both in quantity and value. In four years the banana shipments increased more than 250,000 bunches and more than \$150,000 in value. Only the United States profits by this increase.

The principal French products imported by the Costa Ricans are fancy articles and articles of luxury, alimentary conserves, cassimeres, brandies, medical drugs, mercery, perfumery, different kinds of paper, sardines in boxes, and all kinds of wines.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Republic has ten newspapers, all published in San José, seven of which are daily and three weekly, all being published in the Spanish language.

Dr. ADÁN CÁRDENAS, ex-President of Nicaragua, has been named physician for the first circuit of the District of Puntarenas.

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### CUBA.

#### COLLECTIONS OF REVENUES AT HAVANA IN 1899.

According to the statistics of the War Department of the United States, the total collections for the port of Havana for the 301 working days of the year 1899 was \$11,097,154.41, making an average daily collection of \$36,867.62.

The collections were derived from the following sources: Import duties, \$9,867,930.87; export duties, \$752,349.19; tonnage dues, \$250,957.09; special harbor-improvement tax, \$129,645.71; cattle inspection fees, \$31,846.19; storage and cartage charges, \$12,432.01; capitation tax, \$23,709; fines, confiscations, etc., \$6,353.31; overtime work of customs employees, \$8,124.09; consular fees, \$700.50; miscellaneous sources, \$13,106.45. The total amount of refunds during the year was \$51,577.18.

The total amount of duties collected upon post-office declarations during 1899 was \$1,169.88. No collections were made during the months of January, February, and March, 1899.

#### DISCOVERY OF RICH COAL DEPOSITS.

The reported finding of rich deposits of high-grade coal in the Mayari District, near Nipi Bay, may exert a great influence upon the future development of the island and may be a solution of the problem for utilizing the resources of iron and manganese ore which are said to be of such a high grade and so abundant there.

Tests of several tons of coal taken from outcroppings show that the product is of a high grade, bearing a considerable resemblance to what

is known as "cannel coal." Previously little search had been made for coal owing to the belief of the Government geologists that in all probability no deposits would be found on the island. According to the statement of several interested mining engineers, the finding of a sufficient coal supply would mean an immediate advance in the value of all Cuban mining properties. The vital defect in all former efforts to develop the mining industry in the island has been the lack of fuel.

#### NUMBER OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS IMPORTED.

According to statistics received by the War Department of the United States, the total number of domestic animals imported at the port of Havana during the year 1899 was 315,468. The number of cattle was 271,207; horses, 4,190; mules, 4,065; donkeys, 129; sheep, 2,625; swine, 33,027; goats, 32; and other animals, 193. Of the bovines imported it is estimated that 113,357 were for agricultural purposes, and of the total number 84,459 were received from the United States.

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### ECUADOR.

#### TRADE IN VEGETABLE IVORY.

The species of palm which bears the nuts known as "vegetable ivory" abounds in the forests of the Pacific slope in Ecuador. The product is not extensively exploited because of the low prices received at the native markets. Those engaged in the industry are Indians and mixed races.

The four ports in Ecuador, exporting in all about 11,500 metric tons of *tagua* (vegetable ivory), are Guayaquil, which sent out in 1897 about 3,700; Manata, 3,000; Esmeraldas, 2,900, and Bahia de Caraquez, 1,900 metric tons. Germany imports over two-thirds of this total. The United States ranks next in importance, importing about one-sixth of the whole. The balance goes to France and England.

In the Guayaquil market the harvest is during the rainy season. From February to July, while the rivers are swollen, great rafts of *balsa* (a very light wood) are loaded with *tagua* and floated down from the forests on the head waters. Shortly after the rainy season has ended, the stock is all exported, and no more can be had until the following harvest.

The prices in the Guayaquil market of 1899 are as follows, per 100 pounds:

Ivory nuts, unpeeled, \$.62 to \$.664; peeled, \$1.06 to \$1.15; or free on board, unsacked, \$.885 to \$.929; peeled, \$1.325 to \$1.42; sacked, unpeeled, \$.95 to \$1.00; sacked, peeled, \$1.39 to \$1.48.

Merchants prefer to quote f. o. b. prices, but the following is the list of charges on *tagua* bought for account, per 100 pounds, in cents:

Landing, 1; lighterage, 1.7; storage, 0.85; embarking bulk, 4; expor-

tation tax, 7.5; insurance, one-half of one per cent; commission, 4 per cent.

If the *tagua* is sacked, the charges are per 100 pounds, in cents: Sacks, 6.6; sacking, 2.2; sack marking, 0.22; embarking, sacked (6 *centavos* less than in bulk), 1.7.

Freight rates are as follows: To New York via Panama, long ton, \$16 gold; to New York via Straits of Magellan, long ton, \$8.52.

The following are exporters in Ecuador: Servat & Dumarest, Esmeraldas; Alejandro Santos & Co., Bahia de Caraquez; Norverto Osa & Co., Manta; Martin Reinberg & Co., Guayaquil, J. S. Bruno, Guayaquil; Lopez & Guzman, Guayaquil, and E. Pavia (agent, Flint, Eddy & Co.), Guayaquil.

### THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS.

"Las Novedades," a Spanish-American newspaper printed in New York, recently published some interesting documents regarding the Galapagos Islands—called "Columbus Islands," in Ecuador—the contemplated purchase of which by the United States was recently rumored without any foundation in fact. According to the papers printed by this journal, Peru claims to have the right to the ownership of the Galapagos archipelago, and its claims have been explained and defended at various times by the Peruvian newspapers.

Dr. JOHN RAFAEL E. JARAMILLO, a well-known Ecuadorian writer, has seemingly utterly refuted the claims of Peru and has shown that the latter country had received, without any protest whatever, official communication of the Treaty of 1840, by which Spain recognized Ecuador as a sovereign and independent Republic, comprising the Provinces and Territories specified in its constitution, to wit: Quito, Guayaquil, and the archipelago of Galapagos, etc. The Guayaquil papers announce that in the principal islands of the archipelago the construction of fortifications, according to the latest and best system of military defense, will soon be begun. Guns of long range will be placed there, and a strong garrison sent to occupy the islands. Meanwhile the Government will try to encourage colonists to settle there.

A dispatch from Guayaquil via Panama states that Hon. ARCHIBALD J. SAMPSON, the United States Minister, made no proposition for the purchase of the Galapagos group of islands, but merely inquired whether Ecuador would permit the United States to have a coaling station on one of the islands. The Minister of Foreign Affairs said that the matter would be presented to Congress for action.

### CHATHAM ISLAND.

One of the queerest corners of the earth, according to Capt. JOHN C. REINMAN, is Chatham Island off the coast of Ecuador. This island lies 600 miles west of Guayaquil and the equator runs directly through it. Captain REINMAN, who was sent to the Galapagos group of islands

to inquire into the proper grounding of a deep-sea cable, stopped at Chatham Island and says that it abounds in cats, every one of which is black. These animals live in the crevices of the lava formation near the coast and subsist by catching fish and crabs instead of rats. Other animals found on this island are horses, cattle, dogs, goats, and chickens, all of which are perfectly wild.

#### **WORK OF THE FRENCH GEODETIC COMMISSION.**

The members of the geodetic survey sent to Ecuador by the French Government have completed the work assigned them. It will be remembered that the MONTHLY BULLETIN for the month of October, 1899, mentioned the fact that this Commission was sent to revise the measurement of the arc of the meridian on the equator near Quito. Before their departure from home the members of the Commission addressed a communication to the Ecuadorian Government stating that they had located fifty astronomical and geodetic stations forming a meridian arc of 6 degrees in latitude, and that they would send from France to President ALFARO an exhaustive compendium of the results of their observations.

#### **EXPOSITION OF DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES.**

The Philanthropic Society of Guayas, with headquarters at Guayaquil, has just celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. A magnificent exhibition of articles of native production was opened, and those that won prizes will be handed to the Government to be forwarded to the Ecuadorian section of the Paris Exposition. Most of the articles exhibited were products of the industrial firm of "La Italia," which is organized and managed after the fashion of similar firms in the United States, and which employs hundreds of workmen whose skill has rendered Ecuador independent of foreign countries for many products which were formerly imported.

#### **CONDITION OF THE PRINCIPAL BANKS.**

The MONTHLY BULLETIN is indebted to Mr. PERRY M. DE LEÓN, United States Consul-General at Guayaquil, for the information that the Banco Comercial y Agrícola and the Banco del Ecuador have just declared an annual dividend of 15 per cent each. These banks control the financial system of the Republic. Their stock is selling at 155 and 160, and is very difficult to obtain. At a meeting held on January 17 last Mr. MARTIN REINBERG was elected manager of the first-named bank, vice Señor ROCA, recently deceased. The manager of the Banco del Ecuador is Señor E. M. AROSEMANA. The Banco Comercial y Agrícola is considered the largest and strongest on the west coast of South America. Owing to the phenomenal cacao crop and good prices, as well as to the political quiet of the country, Ecuador is enjoying great prosperity.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

In January, a machinery dealer in New York shipped twenty wood-working machines to Guayaquil for use in a furniture factory and planing mill. The same firm has submitted proposals for furnishing the City of Guayaquil with an electric-lighting plant, the outfit to include three large engines and dynamos. The contract will be awarded in June.

In order to improve the departments of its army, the Government of Ecuador applied for instructors from Chile. Captain ENRIQUE CHANDLER and Sergeant Maj. LUIS A. CABRERA, of the Chilean army, have accordingly arrived in Ecuador and have been engaged as director and assistant director at the military school in Quito.

The Government of Ecuador has asked that the son of President ALFARO be admitted to the United States Military Academy at West Point. The Military Committee of the National House of Representatives acted favorably upon the bill to that effect on January 19, 1900.

The sugar producers of the country are anxious for the completion of the 60-mile railroad from Guayaquil to Quito, which will pass through the entire sugar belt.

Of the world's product of cacao, which in 1898 amounted to 98,687,500 pounds, and in 1897 to 80,398,100 pounds, Ecuador produced about 30 per cent.

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GUATEMALA.

## INDIAN DYNAMO TENDER.

The "Electrical World and Engineer" for January 6, 1900, contains an illustrated article regarding the supervision of electrical machinery by native Indians in Latin America, and in Guatemala in particular. When such apparatus is so simple, well built, and handy that it can be intrusted to uneducated, untrained native help, a great deal is gained in opening up a market and in the development of industries in Central and other Latin America. Guatemala, not being one of the least interested countries, is taking a large amount of electrical machinery from the United States, and naturally its care is of concern both to those who are engaged in the export trade and those who have to operate the plants.

Mr. C. FOWLER CHARLISS, an agent in Guatemala for a United States electric company, says that he now has a number of electrical machines in operation on sugar and fruit plantations, and that his help is almost entirely recruited from the Indians. In installing the system, one of the most intelligent young men is selected to receive instruction and take practical charge. The machinery being comparatively simple



and strongly built and not liable to get out of order, the Indians show themselves quite competent to take care of it and keep it in good condition.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Through an inadvertence the statement was made on page 92 of the January BULLETIN, in the yearly review, that the Puerto Barrios and Northern Railway had recently passed into the hands of a United States company. While it is true that negotiations were pending for some months during 1899 looking to the sale of the road to a United States syndicate, the sale was never consummated, and the Government is still engaged in prosecuting the building of the road at its own expense.

During the year 1899 there were fifty periodicals published in the Republic, eight of which were dailies, four annuals, and thirty-eight weeklies, monthlies, etc. The cities in which these periodicals were published were Guatemala City, Quezaltenango, Retalhulen, Mazatenango, San Felipe Solola, Totonicapam, La Antigua, Chiquimula, Jalapa, San Marcos.

The inventor of wireless telegraphy, Signor MARCONI, arrived in Guatemala City on December 27, 1899, where he went for the purpose of establishing a service on the Pacific coast of Guatemala.

## MEXICO.

### SATISFACTORY FINANCIAL SITUATION.

A review of the financial position of the Mexican Government presents a record which many a country would be proud to claim. Mexico owes a great deal to President DIAZ, and it also owes much to the conservative but far-seeing Minister of the Treasury, Dr. LIMANTOUR, with respect to its financial standing. The following brief table shows the receipts and expenditures of the Republic, in round numbers, for the last six years:

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditures.	Surplus.
1894-95 .....	\$43, 946, 000	\$41, 372, 000	\$2, 573, 000
1895-96 .....	50, 521, 000	45, 070, 000	5, 454, 000
1896-97 .....	50, 501, 000	48, 330, 000	3, 170, 000
1897-98 .....	52, 698, 000	51, 815, 000	883, 000
1898-99 .....	60, 139, 000	53, 499, 000	6, 640, 000

The reserve of cash held in the Treasury as the result of accumulated surpluses amounted on June 30, 1899, to \$4,856,000 in gold and \$17,824,000 in silver. Reducing the gold at the rate of foreign exchange ruling on the date mentioned, Dr. LIMANTOUR is able to

show a cash reserve of \$27,536,000 in silver, the currency of the country. The large surplus shown for the financial year 1898-99 was due mainly to the heavy increase in customs duties, though the internal revenues also showed a notable increase. Dr. LIMANTOUR has already published his budget for 1900-1901. He estimates the revenue at \$58,234,000 and the expenditure at \$58,009,000, which gives a surplus of \$225,000. There are also some interesting points in connection with this budget. One is that the internal tax on coffee has been abolished in order to afford relief to Mexican coffee planters. Another, affecting revenue, and, to a still greater extent, expenditure, is the disposal of the Tehuantepec Railway. The receipts of this line in 1898-99 amounted to only \$227,437, while the expenses of working, which had been constantly increasing, amounted to \$700,000. It must, therefore, be considered a good stroke of business to have disposed of it to the contractors for the completion of the line and of the port works of Coatzacoalcos and Salina Cruz. Still another important reform is connected with the successful conversion of the external debt from a 6 per cent to a 5 per cent basis. This will effect a saving in the present fiscal year of \$1,700,626. The public debt of Mexico now stands as follows: Debt payable in foreign currency, \$108,945,000; debt payable in Mexican currency, \$114,543,000; floating debt, \$954,000. This is not a very heavy burden for a country whose finances are so well managed as those of Mexico.

#### REGISTRY OF TRADE-MARKS.

The Acting British Consul in the City of Mexico calls attention to the fact that foreign trade-marks must be registered if the exporters expect to be fully protected. The warning and advice he gives to his fellow-countrymen is equally as useful to United States exporters to the Mexican markets.

As a general rule those British houses whose trade-marks are registered in Great Britain have omitted to have them also registered in the commercial register of Mexico.

The Acting British Consul says that it can scarcely be considered as an oversight, as the attention of British manufacturers has more than once been called to this fact, not by their agents, but by merchants of Mexico City, who, though receiving the genuine article direct from the factory, are unable to compete in price with the imitations made in Mexico or imported. No action can be taken in many of these cases, either by the commission agent or by the merchant who carries the stock, and they have to allow the fraudulent production to remain on the market. The general public, when they find that they have been deceived, usually make a claim upon the merchant who deals in the genuine article, with the result that his sales are affected and his reputation questioned, through no fault of his own. Such being the state of things, the attention of manufacturers and dealers is seriously called

to the advantages of having their trade-marks properly registered, under the regulations of the "trade-mark law" of Mexico for their own protection.

#### AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, AND INDUSTRIES IN YUCATAN.

The following is a condensation of the report of the Belgian Consul at Mexico on the "Agriculture, Commerce, and Industries of the State of Yucatan." This report rightly attributes the extraordinary prosperity of the northwestern region of Yucatan to the cultivation of henequen, the exportation of which began shortly after the declaration of independence. In 1874 this amounted to 1,000,000 kilos, but recently its development has grown to great proportions. This plant demands a barren soil, situated near the level of the sea, conditions which Yucatan fulfills admirably; in fact, it seems to be the only country possessing them. While the creation of a hemp plantation does not require great labor, yet the results necessitate patient waiting, as the first crop can be expected only after five or six years. The expenses for the complete installation of a plantation, drying room, and machinery for making the fiber into balls is estimated at \$25,000, Mexican. The selling price of hemp varies greatly. A few years ago it fell to \$1.50 per *arroba* (11½ kilos). Since then it has risen rapidly, events having prevented the exportation of Manila fiber, which is used for the same purposes and which competes with it in the United States market. Last year the price reached \$5.50 per *arroba*.

The exportation has increased regularly. In 1882 it was 2,000,000 *arrobas*, and during the period 1884-1889, it averaged 3,500,000 *arrobas*. In 1891 the exports were 4,500,000 *arrobas*, and in 1892, 5,000,000, representing a value of \$8,000,000. It remained at the latter figure until the prices of 1899 sent the production to 6,300,000 *arrobas* (69,636,750 kilos), valued at \$18,251,938 Mexican, (about \$9,000,000), two-thirds of this sum representing the net profit to the producers. The United States received about 90 per cent of the total, a great amount of hemp twine being required for the mechanical binding of cereals there.

[In speaking of Yucatan's output of sisal grass, or henequen, for making ropes, the United States Consul at Progreso says that if the maximum has not already been reached, he believes that it will never be more than 10 per cent larger than now.]

Although hemp constitutes the principal resource of the northwestern region, other products are also found. There are very fine sugarcane plantations in Tekax and Ticul, situated south of Merida, where the soil is much more fertile than farther north. The question of labor is one which justly concerns the future of Yucatan, its scarcity being an obstacle to the development of many enterprises.

Cattle raising is carried on in different places in the northeastern region. At present the ranchmen let the animals roam in the woods.

As there are no streams of water in the country, thirst brings them back to the *hacienda*. The animals receive no care during the whole year and must forage for themselves.

The forests, which appear poor outside of Valladolid, are richer in trees toward the extreme east of the peninsula. A large colonizing company has obtained a concession of 723,000 hectares of land for the exploitation of cabinet and dye woods and the chicle tree. It also owns coffee and vanilla plantations.

To the south of these two regions there extends a territory bounded by the Caribbean Sea on the east and by British Honduras on the south, of which very little is known and which is occupied by Indian tribes. The Federal authority counts upon securing this scope of country peaceably. This will place at the disposition of the Government millions of hectares of virgin country, the most fertile of Yucatan. Immense pasturages known under the name of *savannas* and excellent land for the cultivation of cane and other tropical products are found here. An immense field will be opened up to colonization, and companies are already asking concessions of land in this quarter. In the direction toward Santa Cruz there are also virgin forests containing magnificent cabinet woods, which are generally lacking in other parts of Yucatan. The proximity of the sea will facilitate their exploitation. The Bay of Ascension, it is thought, some day will be the best port of the peninsula. The large cabinet-wood trees (mahogany, cedar, etc.) of Mexico are becoming scarce in the regions where their transportation is practicable.

The foreign commerce of Yucatan is carried on almost exclusively through the port of Progreso. In 1898 the imports were valued at \$1,866,000. These consisted of such articles as were necessary to a prosperous country and a rich city like Merida.

Merida, the capital of the State, is a city of about 55,000 inhabitants. It is the richest city of Mexico. Many importing houses are found there, among others being the house of GUERRA & Co., which imports directly from the United States and to which could be sent catalogues and current prices for different articles, such as rails for narrow-gauge railroads; sheet iron for reservoirs, which are much used in Yucatan for keeping rain water for use in the dry season; barbed-wire fencing, the use of which is increasing, for replacing the walls inclosing the hemp fields; linseed oil, which comes from America, and powder and dynamite. The new city of Progreso was chosen as a port for Merida solely on account of its proximity. Numerous steamship lines touch there.

#### EXPLOITATION OF THE MAGUEY FIBER.

According to a recently published article by Señor Don JOSÉ A. SEGURA, a well-known Mexican engineer, which is favorably commented on by the "Semana Mercantil," of the City of Mexico, the

exploitation of the maguey fiber is undoubtedly the most profitable business that that plant can foster. Heretofore the large majority of the owners of maguey plantations have been satisfied to engage in the *pulque* industry; but the engineer named points out that the fiber industry would be more profitable, and he takes as a basis for proving his assertion the Apam plains in the vicinity of the City of Mexico, which is a typical territory for the cultivation of the plant, and the greatest *pulque*-producing section of the world. At this time, in the cultivation of the maguey for *pulque*, 27 leaves are taken from the plant from the time it is transplanted to the period when it begins to yield, and as it is a fact that it does not lose more than one-half its leaves, 50 may be taken as the number that are left on the plant during that period. There are on the plains of Apam 278 maguey plantations, and it is calculated that combined they have 500,000 fixed plants for a period of eighteen years; that is, the number of workable plants is 138,000,000, which give 6,950,000,000 leaves. The maguey yields 4 per cent of fiber. Every leaf weighs on an average 5 pounds; hence the number mentioned would weigh 34,750,000,000 pounds, and produce a total of 1,380,000,000 pounds of fiber.

The maguey *manso* (*agave americana*), which is that cultivated on the Apam plains, also produces the finest fiber, superior even in beauty and resistance to that of the ramie; but even without taking these qualities into account and appraising the fiber at the same value as common *ixtle*, its price would be \$5 per quintal, and as the said number of pounds gives a total of 13,800,000 quintals, we have a value of \$69,000,000 as the proceeds of the fiber during the ten years of cultivation and replacing of the plants—that is to say, \$6,900,000 per annum. This is a value far superior to that represented by *pulque*, as the value of the latter amounts to only \$4,500,000 per annum in the said territory.

The publication of the article above mentioned resulted in a letter being addressed to the author thereof by a United States firm, stating that they could sell thousands of tons of the maguey fiber, and that the week previous they had sold 135,000 pounds of California hemp; that they were overrun with orders; that they had the most recently invented machinery for extracting the maguey fiber which could be shipped to any point of Mexico; and that they were in a position to sell ten thousand tons of well-cleaned maguey fiber every month. “*El Economista Mexicana*,” commenting upon this letter, calls the most earnest attention of the owners of maguey plantations to the wonderful possibilities for the creation of a new industry in Mexico. It states that the *pulque* producing maguey, mentioned above, has not been commercially exploited in foreign markets as yet, and that even at home its extraction does not form an industry. The Mexican Agricultural Society urges the shipment, to the firm referred to, of several leaves of the Apam maguey plants so that they may extract the fiber with their

machinery and return samples to Mexico, stating what price they would pay for the same and the cost of the machinery in Mexico.

#### VALUE OF PUBLIC LANDS.

In compliance with the provisions of the law of May 26, 1894, the President of Mexico, on January 1, 1900, issued the table of prices per hectare of public or waste lands in the Republic for the fiscal year 1900-1901. The prices in the different States and Territories are as follows:

Aguscalientes .....	\$2.00	Oaxaca.....	1.10
Campeche.....	1.75	Puebla.....	3.00
Chiapas.....	2.50	Querétaro.....	2.00
Chihuahua.....	1.00	San Luis Potosí.....	2.25
Coahuila.....	1.00	Sinaloa.....	1.00
Colima.....	1.00	Sonora.....	1.00
Durango.....	1.00	Tobasco.....	3.00
Guanajuato.....	2.00	Tamaulipas.....	1.00
Guerrero.....	1.10	Tlaxcala.....	2.00
Hidalgo.....	2.25	Vera Cruz.....	2.50
Jalisco.....	2.00	Yucatán.....	2.00
México.....	2.50	Zacatecas.....	2.00
Michoacán.....	2.75	Federal District.....	2.60
Morelos.....	4.00	Territory of Tepic.....	2.25
Nuevo León.....	1.00	Territory of Lower California....	.50

#### DEATH OF GEN. FELIPE B. BERRIOZÁBAL.

On the night of January 9, 1900, Gen. FELIPE B. BERRIOZÁBAL, Secretary of War and the Navy of Mexico, died. The deceased was a native of the State of Zacatecas. At a very early age he was left an orphan, and went to the city of Mexico, where he entered the National School of Engineers. The war between the United States and Mexico having broken out, he interrupted his studies to enter the army. After the signing of the treaty of peace, he again resumed his studies, and received his degree of engineer in April, 1849. He surveyed the States of Mexico and Tlaxcala, and appraised the value of the real estate therein from the years 1849 to 1852. He was also engaged in the dredging of the Lerma Lagoon and the canalization of the river of the same name, in the State of Mexico. He also constructed the necessary works to prevent the inundations of Toluca by the waters flowing from the Nevada volcano, which is very near the city. He surveyed and established the boundaries between the States of Mexico and Michoacán, and was engaged in many other official and private engineering undertakings, which brought him a prominent place and considerable wealth.

At the end of 1860, together with other Liberal officers, he was taken prisoner at Toluca, at the assault and capture of that city by General MIRAMÓN, who fortunately, and despite the terrible reprisals which characterized that three years' war, respected the lives of his prisoners. In 1857 and in 1861 he was acting Governor of the State of Mexico,

and in 1863, during the French intervention, he held a similar office in Michoacán. When, in December, 1860, General MIRAMÓN was defeated at Calpulalpán, and was compelled to abandon the City of Mexico, General BERRIOZÁBAL was charged by that commander with preserving order until the arrival of the Liberal forces. After the triumph of the Republic in 1867, he continued to occupy honorable positions, such as Secretary of the Interior, and of War, Deputy to the National Congress, and discharged other prominent civil and military duties. In like manner he was made a member of several scientific societies at home and abroad, receiving a large number of diplomas and other honorable distinctions. At the end of 1876 he was Minister of War, in the Cabinet formed by Don JOSÉ MARÍA IGLESIAS, in Guanajuato. General BERRIOZÁBAL was also the founder of the National Artillery Museum. As Minister of War he distinguished himself by his activity and energy, and succeeded in reorganizing the army, which was on rather poor footing before his assumption of the post. He furnished the army with the Mauser rifle, and introduced many improvements of note. He added several small transports and gunboats to the Navy, and in several ways showed his thorough fitness for the position to which President DIAZ had called him. His death at a ripe age was universally lamented among all classes of Mexicans.

General BERNARDO REYES, Governor of the State of Nuevo León, was appointed to succeed the late Secretary of War. He took the oath of office on January 25, last, at 12 m., at the National Palace, which was administered by Don IGNACIO MARISCAL, the Secretary of Foreign Relations. The selection of General REYES for the War portfolio has met with universal satisfaction.

#### POSTAL STATISTICS FOR 1899.

As showing the progress of Mexico the following figures, taken from the statistics of the postal service, will be interesting: During the year 1899 there were 545 post-offices in the Republic, 1,225 postal agencies, and 96 railway post-offices, making a total of 1,886 offices. There were 2,529 post-office clerks, 990 messengers, and 4,437 carriers, making a total of 7,956 employees. The extent of the postal service was 11,664 kilometers by rail, 18,577 by steamer, and 58,605 by ordinary roads, making a total of 88,846 kilometers. The receipts for the year were \$1,595,818.56, being \$1,033,427.61 in excess of the receipts for the years 1878 and 1879. The amount of mail matter carried during last year was 122,617,116 pieces, an increase of 116,024,483 in twenty years.

#### REPAIRING OF THE TEHUANTEPEC RAILROAD.

In virtue of the agreement concluded November 11, 1899, between the Department of Public Works and the English house of PEARSON & SON (which was referred to in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for January), the latter engages to put the Tehuantepec railroad in good condition

and to build the two ports of Coatzacoalcos and Salina Cruz. In return it obtains for a period of fifty years, dating from the completion of the work, the proceeds from the exploitation of the railroad and the duties which will be collected in the ports. In addition it receives a subsidy of \$5,000,000. The construction work of the port of Coatzacoalcos will be very light, but at Salina Cruz it will be necessary to construct two immense piers, at an expense valued even now at \$15,000,000 (Mexican). With the completion of this undertaking, which will be in about four or five years, the commercial relations between Europe and the Mexican States situated on the Pacific coast will be greatly facilitated.

#### THE NAIL TRADE.

A recent French consular report says that a considerable increase has been noticed in the nail trade of Mexico in the last six years, the United States exporting the greater part of the nails used in this country. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, the import value rose to \$147,087.

Ordinary nails and tacks find little demand, but of the special kinds those enjoying the largest sale are small nails with round heads for upholstering. These come from France and the United States in packages of 5 kilos, the average price being 20 cents per kilo. Cut nails for heavy carpentry work, etc., come from the United States in kegs of 46 kilos and sell for \$12 per package. Polished clamps are imported from France and the United States in packages of 1 gross. Flat-headed screws come from the United States. Galvanized clamps (staples) for attaching wires come in packages, the smallest of which weigh 1 ounce. "Paris points" are manufactured in Mexico, and while they are inferior to the foreign article, they find a ready sale in all Mexican cities.

The principal importing houses in Mexico are those of Messrs. Roberto Boker & Co., 4 Puente Espiritu Santo; Lohse & Co., Succ., 9, 10, 11 Calle Palma; J. M. Del Rio & Sons, 6 Calle Palma; Sommer, Hermann & Co., 4 Calle Palma.

These houses only import special qualities.

On the coast the following houses are engaged in the business of importing these goods: Vera Cruz, Sommer, Hermann & Co.; Carmen, Joaquin Quintana and Juan Fokken; Campeche, Castellot Hermanos and Llovera & Co.; San Juan de Tabasco, Benito & Co. and Berreteaga & Co.; Merida, Ritter y Bock and Manuel de Arrigunaga; Progreso, Gabriel Escalante; Coatzacoalcos, A. Quevara; Acapulco, Alzuyeta & Co.; Manzanillo and Colima, Vogel & Co.; Mazatlan, Mer. Charpentier.

#### NUMBER OF MINES—NEW MINES.

On page 28 of the July, 1899, number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN appeared a paragraph purporting to give the number of mines in Mexico. The figures there given were erroneous, inasmuch as two lines were



omitted. Attention having been drawn to this fact they are therefore inserted and the item is now printed as it should have read. There are in Mexico 8,299 mining properties, divided among 20 classes, as follows: Gold, 828; gold and silver, 1,675; gold and copper, 54; silver, 4,024; silver and copper, 156; silver and lead, 1,035; silver and iron, 42; silver and magnesium, 2; copper, 173; copper and lead, 6; copper and iron, 22; lead, 19; lead and iron, 7; iron, 99; antimony, 19; tin, 8; mercury, 95; sulphur, 20; opal, 13; rock salt, 2.

Exclusive of coal for the first six months of the year 1899, there were 613 new mines of the different minerals opened up in the Republic. The "Journal of Finance" of a recent date is authority for the statement that there is but one of the coal fields of Mexico which has been at all opened, and yet the United States and State geologists who were employed by the Mexican Government for that purpose reported that in the State of Sonora there was a field containing more anthracite coal than all of the deposits of Pennsylvania.

#### PROPOSED RECIPROCITY WITH COSTA RICA.

The merchants of Costa Rica recently sent to Mexico a representative to look over the field for the purpose of discovering if a mutual exchange of articles can not be secured. An association of Mexican manufacturers has also sent to San José, Costa Rica, an agent provided with several samples of domestic textile fabrics, cigars and cigarettes, bags and bagging, and other articles of important manufacture in Mexico. The desire seems to be prevalent in the latter Republic, and to meet with a response in the Central American States, to promote closer trade relations between the two portions of the North American continent.

#### COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Consul-General of Mexico at New York furnishes the BULLETIN with the imports of Mexican products into the port of New York for the month of December last as follows: Henequén, 14,924 bales; coffee, 6,237 bags; hides, 646 bales, and 3,942 loose; ixtle, 1,178 bales; goat-skins, 913 bales; deerskins, 449 bales; rubber, 162 bales; leaf tobacco, 1,044 bales; cigars, 118 boxes; broom root, 1,403 bales; chicle gum, 1,236 packages; fustic dyewood, 4,947 logs; Puebla onyx, 40 blocks; hair, 21 bales; lead, 34,370 bars; metals, 124 cases; mineral ores, 24,097 packages; sarsaparilla, 26 bales; alligator skins, 135; heron plumes, 1 box; bones, 1,366 packages; honey, 91 barrels; cedar, 1,382 logs; mahogany, 133 logs; jalap, 17 bags; copper, 3,386 bars.

During the month of December there were entered at the Mexican Consulate-General 10 steamships bringing 102,388 packages from Mexican ports, and 12 vessels were dispatched carrying 156,002 packages for Mexican ports.

The Consul of Mexico at San Diego reports that during the month

of December last there were exported to Mexico 27,067 packages, valued at \$11,655.50. The imports during the same month were valued at \$12,689.

The Vice-Consul of Mexico at Pascagoula reports the exports to his country during the month of January last as being: For Campeche, \$4,814; Progreso, \$1,086; Veracruz, \$4,603, making a total of \$10,503.

The Vice-Consul of Mexico, at Mobile, Alabama, reports the exports to his country during the month of January last as amounting to \$29,333.91.

The Consul-General of Mexico at San Francisco reports to the BULLETIN that the imports from Mexico through the port of San Francisco during the month of December, 1899, were valued as follows: Metal imports, \$285,809; merchandise, \$49,035. The exports for the same month were valued at \$125,383. There were also exported Mexican silver dollars to Salvador, \$700; to Hongkong, \$669,076; a total of \$669,776.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

It is reported that a United States company has purchased in the State of Sinaloa one of the richest mines in the Republic, paying therefor what "La Gaceta Comercial" of the City of Mexico considers a ridiculous sum—\$50,000. The name of the mine is "Silvergoa," and it was first denounced in 1570, being worked without interruption for 125 years. During this long time, although worked by the very primitive methods of the time, it yielded to its Spanish owners more than \$200,000,000. The principal owners resided in Salamanca, Spain, and it is a well-known fact that the silver ornaments, statues, sacred vases, etc., of the great cathedral there were manufactured out of the products of that mine.

The mercantile house of VALEZ, LOPEZ & ABASCAL, in Tampico, was destroyed by fire on the night of February 5, 1900. The conflagration consumed the entire block with the exception of three houses. The estimated loss is between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000, partially covered by insurance in English companies.

Eleven retail and one wholesale house, including the city meat market, were burned. This is the most disastrous fire in the history of Tampico. Little or nothing of value was saved, owing to there being no fire protection.

In 1893 the Agricultural Department of the United States obtained in Mexico and distributed a small number of seeds of the alligator pear (*Persa gratisima*) for experimental planting in the United States. Last year the Consul-General of the United States at Monterey sent some 2,000 seeds to the Department, which have been distributed to 86 parties in the States of Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and California, and the Territory of Arizona. The expectations are that this great tropical product will be adapted to cultivation in certain portions of the United States.

It is currently reported in the City of Mexico that a large United States asphalt company has completed arrangements for the purchase of all the asphalt deposits in the Republic of Mexico. The largest of these is situated on the *López hacienda*, 50 miles north of Victoria, and the price paid for it, as announced, was \$300,000 gold. The other deposits are situated in the State of Veracruz, and are said to have been sold for the sum of \$200,000 gold. The company is reported to intend to invest the sum of \$1,000,000 in Mexico.

The "Nouveau Monde" is authority for the statement that a United States company has in view the establishment of a sanitarium at Oaxaca for people afflicted with tuberculosis. The subscribed capital for the installation of this establishment amounts to \$100,000. It is well known that the climate of Oaxaca is one of the most favorable for the cure of tuberculosis. An American physician is there now and is devoting himself to the study of consumptives who have come to the city in search of health.

Prof. FREDERICK STARR, of the University of Chicago, whose ethnographical album of the Indians of Southern Mexico was noticed in a recent number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN, is again in Mexico for the purpose of studying the Chocho and Mazateca Tribes located in the southern part of Oaxaca. The Professor is accompanied by two naturalists and a photographer. When he shall have studied the tribes mentioned, and others in the same region, he will issue his second ethnographical volume.

There are twenty-four light-houses on the coast of Yucatan and Campeche, all under the care of the War Department, and under the immediate supervision of Engineer MENESES, who is the official inspector, and who has the gunboat *Donato Guerra* of the Mexican navy at his orders, on which he makes his regular periodical visits of inspection. The Government proposes to erect 10 or 12 more light-houses during the current year.

The León Exposition, which has been referred to in the MONTHLY BULLETIN on several occasions, was opened to the public on January 20, 1900, by Señor Don JOAQUÍN OBREGÓN GONZALEZ, Governor of the State of Guanajuato. The exhibits of the mining and manufacturing industries of the States of Coahuila, Chihuahua, Michoacán, Jalisco, Nuevo León, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí, and others were very full and complete, claiming great attention.

An exposition of automobiles is to be opened in Mexico by an American who is now in New York arranging for the shipment of a large number of automobiles of different systems. A French paper, commenting upon this fact, says: "It is in France that the automobile industry has shown the greatest development. Nevertheless, here are the Americans who are outstripping us and virtually cutting the grass from under the feet of the French manufacturers."

The Treasury Department has granted a charter for a bank in the city of Campeche, Yucatán, which is to start business with a capital of \$200,000. This may be increased as business warrants. The great increase in the exports of henequén during the past year, which have found a good sale in the United States, has placed the State on a very prosperous footing, the increased revenues to the public treasury being used in public improvements.

The official report of the Director of the National Museum in the City of Mexico for the year 1899 gives the following information: Number of days the Museum was open, 307; total number of Mexican visitors, 210,812; total number of foreign visitors, 7,770; aggregate number of visitors, 218,582; daily average of Mexican visitors, 686.68; daily average of foreign visitors, 25.30; general average of visitors of all kinds, 711.99.

The City Council of Mexico, on January 13, rejected the bids of the three companies competing for the paving of 100 streets of the capital with asphalt, and it is stated that the subject will be taken up on a new basis. It seems that the Council is desirous of adopting some system of asphalt paving, but that the prices were considered too high. The firms competing for the contract were from New York, Chicago, and London.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (French) says that fire bricks, which are admitted free of duty, are imported from the United States to Mexico and sell for about \$107 per thousand. Although Mexico manufactures these bricks, which sell for about \$55 per thousand, they are much inferior in quality to the article made in the United States. The trade in these articles is quite important, as they are extensively used in the numerous lead and silver smelting establishments and iron foundries.

A dispatch from the City of Mexico, dated February 11, 1900, states that there is a project on foot in England looking to the construction of a direct line of railway from this city to the Yucatán peninsula, with branch lines into British Honduras, where the British Government is disposed to grant a subsidy. The line will place Yucatán in connection with the Federal capital and open up a fertile agricultural region.

President DIAZ has extended the contract with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, of November 17, 1898, for one year from January 1, 1900. He has also extended the contracts of November 19, 1894, and October, 1898, with the "Knott's Prince Line," plying between Hamburg and Glasgow and Progreso, Veracruz and Tampico, for three months from January 11, 1900.

On January 15, 1900, the first cars were run over the new electric line from the Placa de Armas to Tacubaya, on the outskirts of the City

of Mexico. The line is exceedingly well constructed, the system used being the trolley. The power house contains a duplicate plant. The cars are now running regularly between the places named.

A Chicago firm has recently taken the second issue of the bonds of the State of Jalisco to the amount of \$1,000,000 in gold. The proceeds of this bond issue are to be utilized in improvements in the city of Guadalajara. The taxable property in the State has largely increased during the past year, and the Treasury is in a very flourishing condition.

At a point on the Navarrete *hacienda* known as "Huarisieba," recent prospectings have shown a fine lode of iron ore 200 meters in length by 100 in width, in a hill of considerable height. Assays show that the ore contains from 47 to 50 per cent of iron of a good quality. This is another great element of wealth for the Territory of Tepic.

A meeting of capitalists and farmers, presided over by Colonel PROSPERO CAHUANTZI, Governor of Tlaxcala, recently took place at Apizaco, to discuss the formation of a company for the construction of a railway which would connect Apizaco and Tlaxco, stopping at the principal *haciendas*.

The United States Patent Office, on January 16, 1900, issued two patents to ENRIQUE TORRES, of Guadalajara, for a repeating clock, repeating and striking mechanism for clocks, and for a repeating watch. On January 23 it also issued a patent to HENRY W. HOWE, of the City of Mexico, for shears.

The city of León now has 22 machine shops devoted to various industries. It has 1,282 boot and shoe shops, 265 shawl manufactories, 144 carpenter and cabinetmaking shops, 109 forges, 35 tanneries, 21 leather-working establishments, and many others of a diversified character.

The Mexican Mineral Railroad Company was recently organized in the city of Albany, New York, with a capital of \$350,000. It purposes building a railroad entirely within the borders of the State of Nuevo León to run from the city of Monterey to the mining district of San Pedro.

A strong United States company, now working the mines in Teziutlán, known as "La Aurora," "Cires," "Saturno," and "Venus," which are principally copper mines, though there are traces of gold and silver, intends to establish smelting works as important as those at Aguascalientes.

On January 12 the Mexican Congress approved the contract between the Secretary of Communications and Public Works and Señor DON MANUEL SIERRA MENDEZ for the establishment of a navigation service on the eastern coast of Yucatán and in the Gulf of Mexico.

The cars which are to be used on the new city railway of the capital of the State of Chihuahua, and which were purchased in the United States, will be put on in the month of March.

Mr. J. F. DE ASSIS-BRASIL, Minister of Brazil in Washington, has also been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico by his Government.

The 138 cotton, yarn, and cloth mills in the Republic will pay into the National Treasury as a stamp tax for the half year from January to June, 1900, the sum of \$923,017.40.

The Compañía Telefónica Jalisciense has established a telephone system in the city of Guadalajara. The equipments were purchased in the United States.

There has recently been discovered in the State of Chihuahua a great gold placer, the principal vein of which is 3,000 feet in length by 200 in width

Work upon the electric railroad which is to connect the city of Lerdo, Durango, with the flourishing town of Torreón, Coahuila, has been begun.

The Topo Chico street railway line in Monterey is being extended. Mr. S. W. SLAYDEN, of Waco, Texas, is the proprietor of this road.

A law prescribing compulsory education has been enacted by the Legislature of the State of Guanajuato.

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## NICARAGUA.

### STATUS OF THE MARITIME CANAL COMPANY.

Señor LUIS F. COREA, the Nicaraguan Minister to the United States, has advised the Secretary of State of the latter that his Government has appointed an arbitrator to determine whether the Maritime Canal Company is entitled to an extension of its concession.

### CONSUL-GENERAL IN LONDON.

Mr. M. J. KELLEY has resigned his position as Consul-General of Nicaragua in London, though he continues as Consul-General of Honduras and Salvador. Mr. M. DE MONTES is now looking after Nicaragua's interests in the British metropolis.

### COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Nicaraguan Consul at San Francisco reports the exports to his country during the month of January, 1900, as being 4,950 packages,

valued at \$22,132.36. The imports were: Coffee, 59 bags; sugar, 495 bags; specie, 1 case; metal, 4 cases; mahogany logs, 21; making a total of 580 packages.

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## PERU.

### EXPLOITATION OF BORATE OF LIME DEPOSITS.

The exploitation of borate of lime deposits in Peru is assuming considerable importance of late. In 1896, according to "La Nature," of Paris, the exports of this product were only 1,179,000 kilos, and in 1898 they amounted to 11,850,000, valued, respectively, at 117,000 and 949,000 *sols*, of 5 *francs* each. About five or six years ago borax deposits were discovered in the Department of Arequipa, and when one considers the many uses to which borax and its derivatives are put at the present day, it is not astonishing that this discovery should be deemed a very great event in Peru, and that it should be considered as a new factor in the wealth of the country. North of Arequipa, about 75 kilometers, there is a valley in the form of a funnel known as "Salinas," which is about 10 kilometers in length and 8 in width. It lies between two branches of the Andes, and is dominated by the Misti and the Ubinas. The waters which flow down from these volcanoes cover this valley, and evaporating there leave a deposit of borate of lime of a thickness varying from 30 to 50 centimeters.

Señor J. M. DE EZCURRA was the first to conceive the idea of exploiting these deposits, and he met with very grave difficulties, owing to the fact that it was at first necessary to transport the raw material to Arequipa, on the banks of Ilamas, over an absolutely desert region between boulders and lava strewn about in wild confusion, without any signs of a road at an elevation of 3,500 meters above sea level, and with a temperature which at times goes down to 18°. These difficulties made the first quantities taken out very dear, the scarcity of any kind of fuel adding also to the expense. This expense was the cause of the borate of lime placed on board at Mollendo costing 151½ *francs* per 1,000 kilograms. It is true, however, that these 1,000 kilograms on reaching Liverpool were easily sold for 277½ *francs*, which left a fine profit for the shipper. As the selling price afterwards fell off considerably it became necessary to reduce the cost of production proportionately, and the calcination of the borate, which had previously been effected at Arequipa, was done at the mine. A large furnace was built for the purpose, a new association was formed, and with very great difficulty a wagon road was built from the valley of Salinas to Arequipa. The cost of production of the borate was thus reduced to 101 *francs* per 1,000 kilos on board at Mollendo. An English syndicate recently purchased all the Salinas borate deposits and also new deposits discovered in Ascota.

## FRENCH SCHOOLS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

A recent number of "El Comercio," of Lima, referring to a telegram from Paris announcing that M. GERVAIS, a Deputy from the Department of the Seine, had presented a bill in the Chamber of which he was a part, to appropriate 50,000 *francs* to the maintenance of French schools in South America, for the purpose of attracting Creole children, arresting the Teutonization of the country, upholding the predominance there of the Latin race, and preserving the trade and patronage thereof for the French people (referred to in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for December, 1899, pp. 899-900), thus expresses itself:

"It is noteworthy that a Deputy like GERVAIS should be completely in the dark as to the progress and civilization of the South American countries, by placing them on the level of savage peoples. That a vulgarian should form mistaken ideas regarding Latin America may pass as due to his slight understanding, but that a Deputy for the Department of the Seine should hold us in so little esteem oversteps the bounds and makes us doubt the enlightenment and judgment which should distinguish a member of the French Parliament. He ought to know that the countries of Latin America are cognizant of all the plans of the old world in science, letters, discoveries, scientific applications, methods of teaching, industrial and commercial advancement, etc., and that new books are read among us before they are spread among all the European peoples.

"He ought to know that in these countries we do not admit the hegemony of any nation, neither Teutonism nor Frenchism nor Italianism; that all those foreign elements that come to us from the old world are welcome; we accept them as elements of progress and labor, but not to form hegemonies, but nucleuses of thought and labor, associating themselves to our efforts, uniting their intelligence and their muscles to our energies in order that prosperity shall be the common lot of all the inhabitants of the country. He ought to know that the Frenchmen residing in Latin America are sufficient unto themselves to maintain the commercial bonds between their country of origin and that of their adoption, protected by the ample liberty and support which they enjoy under the folds of our flag and beneath the ægis of our constitution, which is the most liberal of the world. He ought to know this and much more so that he should not take a step such as he has, antagonistic to the enlightenment of a man fairly versed in modern geographical and statistical knowledge."

## NEW PRESIDENTIAL CABINET.

The new Cabinet of President ROMANA is as follows:

Minister of Foreign Relations and President of the Council, Dr. ENRIQUE DE LA RIVAGÜERO.

Minister of the Interior and Police, Col. DOMINGO J. PARRA.



Minister of Justice, Worship, Instruction, and Charity, Dr. ELIODORO ROMERO.

Minister of War and Marine, General VELARDE.

Minister of Finance and Commerce, Señor MARIANO A. BELAÚNDE.

Minister of Public Works, Señor ENRIQUE SEGARRA.

### INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

The "Nouveau Monde" publishes a report of the French Consul at Lima to the effect that industry in Peru has made remarkable progress since the Government has interested itself in facilitating the introduction of improved machinery and tools in the country. It can truly be said that Peru is entering upon a period of prosperity, for agriculture shows great development, especially in those regions where the large proprietors have adopted steam plows for the cultivation of their fields. Besides agricultural machinery, the customs statistics show that a large amount of machinery for the development of mines, forests, spinning mills, etc., has recently been imported.

The most complete tranquillity reigns over the whole of the Republic, and the confidence which the Government of President ROMANO inspires in the Peruvian people increases every day, for the chief of the executive power is an energetic, liberal, and honest man, whose one ambition is to increase the general welfare in the interior and to assure the good name and credit of the nation abroad.

### RAILWAY TRAFFIC.

The number of passengers carried on Peruvian railways in each of the years 1898 and 1897 amounted to about 3,150,000. The number of tons of merchandise conveyed on the same lines in 1898 was 540,000, as against 505,000 in 1897.

### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Japanese immigrants in Peru are not meeting with the favor of the owners of the large plantation where they have been working, and it is asserted that they are unsuited to Peru. Recently the Japanese colonists on the Casa Blanca estate mutinied, and it became necessary to call upon the police to quell the disturbance and restore order.

The mines in the Cerro de Pasco region are being very actively worked, exporting more than a thousand tons of high-grade copper per month, the inferior grade ore being smelted at the mines and yielding a profit of from 50 to 75 per cent. The activity in the production of red copper has resulted in an advance in the price of coal.

The Government has issued an order granting free entry to articles needed by the Central Railway of Peru for the service of the line during the year 1900. It has also ordered that the Salaverry custom-house admit materials intended for the Trujillo Railroad free of duty.

It is stated that the Government is to send Vice-Admiral CARRASCO to Europe to purchase warships. Late in December last the Government dispatched a commissioner to Europe to study the manufacture of gunpowder for heavy ordnance and other explosives.

The Government has granted Mr. ERNEST THORNDIKE an extension on his contract term for the completion of the railroad from Oroya to Cerro de Pasco.

On February 3, 1900, the seaport town of Ilo was visited by a big fire, which destroyed the custom-house, post-office, and many other buildings.

The recent Congress of Peru increased the salary of the President by 6,000 *sols* per annum and that of each of the Ministers by 1,200.

A French Hindostanee physician, SARAK CONDE DAS, has started a magazine at Lima, which is to be published in Spanish.

Two building associations similar to those existing in the United States and England have been formed at Lima.

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## SALVADOR.

### FRANKING PRIVILEGE FOR THE BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

In a communication to this Bureau, dated San José, Costa Rica, January 12, 1900, Hon. WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY, United States Minister to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Salvador, says: "I have the pleasure to advise you that under date of December 28, 1899, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Salvador informs me that orders have been issued to the postal authorities of that country according the franking privilege to all publications issued by the Bureau of the American Republics.

### CONGRESS TO DISCUSS COFFEE.

At the initiative of the Government of Salvador, there will be held in the near future a Central American Congress to discuss the means best adapted to bring about a more general demand for coffee and to increase its price. The Government of Honduras has accepted the invitation of that of Salvador and will soon name its delegate.

## SANTO DOMINGO.

## NEW PRESIDENTIAL CABINET.

The Cabinet of President JIMENEZ is constituted as follows:

Minister of the Interior, Gen. LUIS M. HERNANDEZ.

Minister of Foreign Relations, Dr. FRANCISCO HENRIQUEZ Y CARVAJAL.

Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, Licenciado ALVARO LOGROÑO.

Minister of Public Works, Licenciado F. L. VASQUEZ.

Minister of Finance, Dr. FEDERICO AUGUSTO GONZALEZ.

Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Don EUGENIO DESCHAMPS.

Minister of War and Marine, Don JOSÉ BRACHE.

## DEPOSITS OF IRON.

Mr. CAMPBELL L. MAXWELL, Consul-General of the United States, reports that near Cotui, a small inland town about 50 miles from the head of Samana Bay, there is said to be a valuable and extensive iron-ore deposit. The land belongs to the Government, but Mr. MAXWELL thinks it can be obtained on reasonable terms. The distance from the town to the river is about 12 or 15 miles, and the river is large and deep enough to allow boats of 15 or 20 feet draught to navigate it. The bar at the point where the river empties is an obstacle. That, it is thought, however, could be dredged at no very great cost; but as to this the Consul-General says he can not speak with certainty. Labor is reported as plentiful and cheap.

A Belgian company is reported to have offered to pay all the debts of the Dominican Government for a sixty years' concession of the iron mines of the Republic.

## HONORARY CORRESPONDING MEMBER.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN takes great pleasure in announcing that Señor Don JOSÉ G. GARCIA has accepted the position of Honorary Corresponding Member of the International Union of American Republics, and assures its readers that they will be favored with information from Santo Domingo from the pen of this gentleman. Señor GARCIA resides in the city of Santo Domingo, is a man of great learning, and the most eminent historiographer in the Dominican Republic.

Bull. No. 2—5

## UNITED STATES.

## TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

## STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of December, 1899, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the twelve months ending December, 1899, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1898. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the complete returns for December, for example, are not published until some time in February.

## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	December—		Twelve months ending December—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Chemicals:</b>				
Logwood ( <i>Palo campeche</i> ; <i>Páu campeche</i> ; <i>Campeche</i> )—				
Mexico .....	\$1,190	\$676	\$14,100	\$12,671
<b>Coal, bituminous</b> ( <i>Carbón bituminoso</i> ; <i>Carvão betuminoso</i> ; <i>Charbon de terre</i> ):				
Mexico .....	21,637	15,004	220,622	203,702
<b>Cocoa</b> ( <i>Cacao</i> ; <i>Coco ou Cacao cru</i> ; <i>Cacao</i> ):				
Central America .....	375	490	7,788	1,621
Brazil .....	112,140	75,654	532,400	508,177
Other South America .....	167,344	143,189	1,337,647	1,584,846
<b>Coffee</b> ( <i>Café</i> ; <i>Café</i> ; <i>Café</i> ):				
Central America .....	149,817	147,683	4,314,997	5,244,797
Mexico .....	157,179	134,412	3,010,893	3,026,624
Brazil .....	2,230,189	2,744,207	33,153,935	36,286,817
Other South America .....	505,788	174,100	7,513,089	6,255,620
<b>Cotton, unmanufactured</b> ( <i>Algodón en rama</i> ; <i>Algodão em rama</i> ; <i>Coton, non manufacturé</i> ):				
South America .....	13,359	31,422	158,830	159,629
<b>Fibers:</b>				
Sisal grass ( <i>Henequén</i> ; <i>Henequen</i> ; <i>Hennequen</i> )—				
Mexico .....	386,226	779,196	7,521,237	8,727,226
Philippine Islands .....	221,413	26,275	2,797,254	3,955,305
<b>Fruits:</b>				
Bananas ( <i>Plátanos</i> ; <i>Bananas</i> ; <i>Bananes</i> )—				
Central America .....	112,473	179,540	1,740,953	2,083,064
South America .....	50,167	68,999	508,157	999,518
Oranges ( <i>Naranjas</i> ; <i>Laranjas</i> ; <i>Oranges</i> )—				
Mexico .....	43,789	30,017	136,453	187,426
<b>Fur skins</b> ( <i>Pieles finas</i> ; <i>Pelles</i> ; <i>Fourrures</i> ):				
South America .....	4,816	13,444	96,132	191,266
<b>Hides and skins</b> ( <i>Cueros y pieles</i> ; <i>Couros e peles</i> ; <i>Cuir et peaux</i> ):				
Central America .....	35,680	45,249	236,676	367,423
Mexico .....	243,091	254,831	1,771,116	2,102,194
South America .....	1,293,013	787,966	9,793,530	10,674,348

## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	December—		Twelve months ending December—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
India rubber, crude ( <i>Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut</i> ):				
Central America .....	\$95,292	\$80,012	\$588,474	\$853,095
Mexico .....	10,421	16,865	69,499	186,642
Brazil .....	1,733,817	1,563,862	13,356,725	18,427,858
Other South America .....	71,562	101,142	771,242	1,096,115
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. ( <i>Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em lingüados, barras, etc.; Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.</i> ):				
Mexico .....	192,312	248,882	1,683,083	2,436,296
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard ( <i>Azúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão hollandez; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16</i> ):				
Central America .....	802	3,219	217,822	176,697
Mexico .....	2,061	1,669	46,913	76,716
Cuba .....	811,292	82,421	13,094,196	17,746,966
Brazil .....	44,438	.....	2,431,324	681,865
Other South America .....	888,571	837,909	5,558,054	5,549,197
Hawaiian Islands .....	105,480	477,312	16,184,944	21,717,480
Philippine Islands .....	.....	.....	1,086,499	910,313
Tobacco, leaf ( <i>Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles</i> ):				
Mexico .....	11,403	21,078	285,817	62,974
Cuba .....	301,389	794,312	2,832,497	6,891,038
Wood, mahogany ( <i>Caoba; Mogno; Acajou</i> ):				
Central America .....	43,560	49,060	261,218	333,480
Mexico .....	21,947	19,963	286,538	417,415
Cuba .....	.....	16,185	8,133	80,753
South America .....	1,375	3,480	40,478	22,617
Wool ( <i>Lana; Lã; Laine</i> ):				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing) .....	3,140	3,108	513,457	544,593
Class 2 (combing) .....	.....	.....	19,126	101
Class 3 (carpet) .....	10,843	44,933	857,399	575,877

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements ( <i>Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles</i> ):				
Central America .....	\$562	\$369	\$6,657	\$6,391
Mexico .....	15,604	20,101	153,805	306,731
Santo Domingo .....	37	2,051	432	3,290
Cuba .....	2,390	9,880	8,179	114,324
Puerto Rico .....	50	730	847	6,311
Argentina .....	67,563	137,403	1,163,125	2,028,223
Brazil .....	1,163	4,432	26,294	35,956
Colombia .....	3	36	4,320	1,014
Other South America .....	19,612	27,129	270,580	313,023
Animals:				
Cattle ( <i>Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail</i> )—				
Central America .....	1,575	.....	4,310	615
Mexico .....	2,998	10,185	94,404	138,223
South America .....	.....	.....	7,775	2,870
Hogs ( <i>Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons</i> )—				
Mexico .....	29,123	4,837	36,614	107,341
Horses ( <i>Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux</i> )—				
Central America .....	120	250	11,665	2,008
Mexico .....	7,450	13,298	99,360	98,065
South America .....	500	550	4,289	3,950
Sheep ( <i>Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons</i> )—				
Mexico .....	128	4,539	12,205	11,112
South America .....	1,360	510	10,653	8,252

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	December—		Twelve months ending December—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Books, maps, engravings, etc. ( <i>Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.</i> ):				
Central America.....	\$1,528	\$15,461	\$28,984	\$58,671
Mexico.....	5,747	8,500	73,807	92,162
Santo Domingo.....	729	233	5,092	7,593
Cuba.....	2,707	4,555	12,402	61,098
Puerto Rico.....	1,617	469	6,337	17,300
Argentina.....	686	4,082	22,660	28,725
Brazil.....	7,689	2,735	53,702	62,500
Colombia.....	11,101	11,513	20,255	74,560
Other South America.....	12,419	2,158	109,714	59,923
<b>Breadstuffs:</b>				
Corn ( <i>Maiz; Milho; Maïs</i> )—				
Central America.....	2,086	10,871	54,229	44,264
Mexico.....	6,341	24,337	21,551	178,719
Santo Domingo.....			63	315
Cuba.....	8,003	43,269	258,937	477,550
Puerto Rico.....		544		1,923
South America.....	2,377	695	10,871	73,007
Wheat flour ( <i>Harina de trigo; Farinha de trigo; Farine de blé</i> )—				
Central America.....	79,208	92,242	1,165,768	891,240
Mexico.....	13,101	9,719	109,884	154,262
Santo Domingo.....	9,073	21,496	171,413	142,533
Cuba.....	159,114	178,612	1,340,766	2,053,405
Puerto Rico.....	29,433	60,027	366,389	642,696
Brazil.....	330,402	267,963	3,245,731	2,581,242
Colombia.....	43,033	16,381	374,012	423,910
Other South America.....	140,680	100,686	1,508,535	1,574,599
Wheat ( <i>Trigo; Trigo; Blé</i> )—				
Central America.....	3,835	1,800	41,663	19,144
South America.....	46,226	11,445	509,323	87,231
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of ( <i>Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carriagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties</i> ):				
Central America.....	2,037	4,919	48,851	21,209
Mexico.....	35,367	80,218	286,182	874,200
Santo Domingo.....	5,794	753	20,743	16,263
Cuba.....	28,189	38,278	72,777	203,277
Puerto Rico.....	90	1,165	2,242	23,224
Argentina.....	63,286	29,284	371,673	341,704
Brazil.....	1,944	16,305	561,146	214,624
Colombia.....	1,992	1,864	43,068	23,087
Other South America.....	4,586	274	79,944	47,147
Cycles and parts of ( <i>Biciclos y sus accesorios; Bicycles e accessorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties</i> ):				
Central America.....	404	178	7,091	4,820
Mexico.....	3,129	2,075	57,947	41,897
Santo Domingo.....	33	7	631	330
Cuba.....	790	20,400	5,286	111,702
Puerto Rico.....	70	123	2,631	2,771
Argentina.....	18,598	8,661	131,624	272,995
Brazil.....	5,494	3,752	99,232	35,065
Colombia.....	614	82	7,986	7,834
Other South America.....	6,916	4,648	54,104	65,365
Clocks and watches ( <i>Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres</i> ):				
Central America.....	485	254	5,435	2,575
Mexico.....	2,847	1,697	23,747	30,639
Argentina.....	3,446	1,252	29,134	26,022
Brazil.....	14,260	8,852	60,073	62,561
Other South America.....	12,808	3,801	98,110	73,936
Coal ( <i>Carbón; Carvão; Charbon</i> ):				
Central America.....	1,177	2,930	10,054	19,454
Mexico.....	74,429	86,056	1,076,174	1,424,103
Santo Domingo.....	1,827	2,392	11,714	10,758
Cuba.....	75,144	41,904	497,363	637,103
Puerto Rico.....	2,895	2,391	20,543	45,640
Brazil.....	19,066		154,353	99,785
Colombia.....		10,613	17,671	60,547
Other South America.....	4,133	1,006	139,456	70,750

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	December—		Twelve months ending December—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Copper (<i>Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre</i>):</b>				
Mexico .....	\$24,898		\$305,759	\$332,205
<b>Cotton, unmanufactured (<i>Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton, non manufacturé</i>):</b>				
Mexico .....	258,805	\$19,972	1,193,835	689,722
South America .....		1,780		1,780
<b>Cotton cloths (<i>Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	48,193	53,928	484,588	649,700
Mexico .....	43,982	41,765	449,076	541,115
Santo Domingo .....	9,086	3,169	145,487	147,360
Cuba .....	35,313	25,404	64,478	707,373
Puerto Rico .....	1,931	5,562	6,768	252,433
Argentina .....	28,528	11,872	200,281	136,612
Brazil .....	82,501	44,926	633,130	467,201
Colombia .....	48,709	6,065	313,727	362,031
Other South America .....	187,462	34,610	1,402,039	1,030,258
<b>Wearing apparel, cotton (<i>Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	19,812	65,631	215,750	331,736
Mexico .....	20,448	23,772	359,841	432,250
Santo Domingo .....	1,655	2,922	23,609	18,139
Cuba .....	8,499	13,573	25,396	193,123
Puerto Rico .....	1,707	1,488	4,133	44,126
Argentina .....	7,207	1,053	56,897	39,231
Brazil .....	8,835	6,849	49,525	41,265
Colombia .....	12,592	4,233	49,504	44,539
Other South America .....	1,271	1,741	41,488	68,955
<b>Fruits and nuts (<i>Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noisettes</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	3,348	5,869	28,016	32,688
Mexico .....	9,503	12,517	69,409	79,686
Santo Domingo .....	705	1,505	1,636	2,034
Cuba .....	16,616	16,881	50,160	85,709
Puerto Rico .....	742	2,258	2,442	10,313
Argentina .....	797	378	8,802	15,188
Brazil .....	1,218	3,761	14,801	20,648
Colombia .....	964	1,099	7,859	9,901
Other South America .....	2,689	3,371	21,933	21,418
<b>Instruments:</b>				
Electric and scientific apparatus ( <i>Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Aparelhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques</i> )—				
Central America .....	17,398	2,251	83,550	59,783
Mexico .....	33,468	69,678	332,966	494,784
Argentina .....	11,140	25,722	172,450	307,305
Brazil .....	16,986	11,561	84,863	155,690
Other South America .....	9,526	14,941	112,091	137,716
<b>Iron and steel, manufactures of:</b>				
Steel rails ( <i>Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier</i> )—				
Central America .....	216		23,487	24,982
Mexico .....	102,139	54,364	711,175	499,700
South America .....	21,318	83,386	340,025	233,906
Builders' hardware, and saws and tools ( <i>Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils</i> )—				
Central America .....	11,780	8,552	78,957	94,049
Mexico .....	34,404	38,969	365,258	456,557
Santo Domingo .....	1,384	837	11,448	9,179
Cuba .....	22,425	24,435	87,993	396,168
Puerto Rico .....	673	2,435	6,575	30,640
Argentina .....	18,973	25,931	207,459	269,034
Brazil .....	23,743	29,418	191,462	262,773
Colombia .....	10,593	5,710	94,049	122,299
Other South America .....	27,280	14,353	208,515	257,257

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	December—		Twelve months ending December—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Iron and steel, manufactures of—Continued.</b>				
Sewing machines and parts of ( <i>Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Máquinas de coser e accesorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties</i> )—				
Central America.....	\$2, 634	\$1, 162	\$24, 749	\$20, 538
Mexico.....	15, 626	23, 758	197, 718	294, 120
Santo Domingo.....	43	271	1, 679	1, 657
Cuba.....	160	4, 315	849	48, 120
Puerto Rico.....	100	67	1, 863	4, 536
Argentina.....	11, 011	30, 188	95, 513	173, 219
Brazil.....	5, 685	19, 387	88, 990	143, 909
Colombia.....	6, 389	644	73, 749	41, 856
Other South America.....	16, 092	10, 111	116, 673	140, 601
<b>Typewriting machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Máquinas de escribir e accesorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	226	485	1, 979	2, 645
Mexico.....	2, 685	4, 531	30, 914	57, 228
Santo Domingo.....		45	80	2 1/2
Cuba.....	2, 878	2, 895	5, 556	28, 828
Puerto Rico.....	378	616	1, 961	3, 056
Argentina.....	225	2, 692	25, 919	40, 618
Brazil.....	153	731	4, 736	10, 643
Colombia.....	470	273	3, 578	2, 994
Other South America.....	1, 858	871	15, 850	25, 363
<b>Leather, other than sole (<i>Cuero, distinto del de suelo, Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	559	697	8, 864	13, 525
Mexico.....	1, 049	3, 589	7, 586	25, 289
Santo Domingo.....			1, 047	1, 074
Cuba.....	668	2, 237	2, 638	31, 797
Puerto Rico.....	1, 003	331	3, 266	8, 203
Argentina.....	1, 881	4, 630	18, 346	51, 707
Brazil.....	5, 366	14, 159	53, 088	78, 439
Colombia.....	565	15	3, 272	3, 964
Other South America.....	2, 205	1, 314	20, 995	38, 577
<b>Boots and shoes (<i>Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	15, 998	22, 327	84, 881	143, 402
Mexico.....	13, 565	37, 320	116, 099	325, 265
Colombia.....	4, 466	4, 683	30, 027	46, 060
Other South America.....	3, 287	6, 200	40, 613	31, 815
<b>Naval stores:</b>				
Rosin, tar, etc. ( <i>Resina y alquitrán; Resina e alcitrão; Résine et goudron</i> )—				
Central America.....	768	295	15, 974	13, 413
Mexico.....	759	479	9, 341	9, 405
Santo Domingo.....	4	500	4, 247	3, 851
Cuba.....	309	1, 956	5, 426	13, 913
Puerto Rico.....	300	355	995	1, 690
Argentina.....		3, 970	78, 279	124, 190
Brazil.....	10, 227	29, 109	168, 103	222, 648
Colombia.....	2, 612	298	14, 136	11, 709
Other South America.....	5, 495	25, 698	95, 055	87, 893
<b>Turpentine, spirits of (<i>Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	325	440	3, 313	5, 317
Mexico.....	363	257	4, 268	4, 432
Santo Domingo.....	66	25	487	556
Cuba.....	1, 367	3, 309	12, 776	54, 276
Puerto Rico.....	276	191	1, 635	4, 980
Argentina.....	1, 165	17, 031	107, 216	101, 607
Brazil.....	6, 830	3, 608	70, 084	59, 760
Colombia.....	776	94	5, 232	6, 014
Other South America.....	4, 079	864	58, 807	61, 103
<b>Oils, mineral, crude (<i>Aceites minerales, crudos, Oleos mineraes, crus; Huiles minérales, brutes</i>):</b>				
Mexico.....	32, 693	40, 237	306, 902	433, 803
Cuba.....	21, 019	40, 384	160, 942	268, 826
Puerto Rico.....		9, 333	19, 477	21, 845



## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	December—		Twelve months ending December—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (<i>Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	\$13,172	\$11,460	\$123,939	\$135,645
Mexico.....	17,306	18,129	165,890	214,213
Santo Domingo.....	17,813	5,589	54,074	38,374
Cuba.....	11,625	11,687	69,096	114,280
Puerto Rico.....	4,508	3,326	36,692	52,392
Argentina.....	48,925	150,759	871,124	1,161,574
Brazil.....	219,522	150,321	1,622,984	1,628,484
Colombia.....	22,075	7,703	117,960	134,443
Other South America.....	52,547	43,583	901,970	1,133,531
<b>Oils, vegetable (<i>Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetaes; Huiles végétales</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	192	841	3,888	6,835
Mexico.....	28,174	75,600	379,739	701,148
Santo Domingo.....	1,584	3,147	30,999	30,890
Cuba.....	131	7,398	4,056	42,965
Argentina.....	425	3,760	11,774	36,684
Brazil.....	32,361	13,952	264,243	193,843
Other South America.....	5,747	8,328	100,634	123,224
<b>Paraffin and paraffin wax (<i>Parafina y cera de parafina; Parafina e cera de parafina; P'araffine et cire de cette substance</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	1,141	2,735	27,466	28,318
Mexico.....	17,565	48,757	172,959	313,626
Brazil.....	1,947	1,482	12,166	15,720
Other South America.....	481	45	6,329	12,794
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:</b>				
<b>Beef, canned (<i>Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca en latas; Bœuf conservé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	2,181	4,771	22,499	26,619
Mexico.....	2,189	2,046	15,006	22,800
Santo Domingo.....	8	20	45	118
Cuba.....	493	88	5,820	13,464
Argentina.....			581	1,484
Brazil.....	2,924	7,304	24,318	28,810
Colombia.....	366	972	5,160	8,297
Other South America.....	1,078	1,166	13,134	19,597
<b>Beef, salted or pickled (<i>Carne de vaca salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumure</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	2,648	5,068	36,646	39,371
Mexico.....	101	24	291	2,151
Santo Domingo.....	142	494	3,478	5,800
Cuba.....	2,608	842	16,111	24,499
Puerto Rico.....	72	126	532	1,955
Brazil.....	249	605	2,082	4,410
Colombia.....	1,396	1,070	13,146	19,446
Other South America.....	21,874	11,178	194,387	166,454
<b>Tallow (<i>Sebo; Sebo; Suif</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	4,841	5,060	93,477	86,527
Mexico.....	6,794	1,795	27,542	27,696
Santo Domingo.....	1,477	1,558	20,274	17,725
Cuba.....	429	772	24,722	3,330
Puerto Rico.....		325	404	702
Brazil.....	1,755	479	25,730	24,847
Colombia.....	357	130	8,563	18,426
Other South America.....	1,163	720	26,124	49,909
<b>Bacon (<i>Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,746	2,918	16,435	21,909
Mexico.....	1,854	1,703	12,667	21,743
Santo Domingo.....	93	200	2,122	2,190
Cuba.....	21,388	59,931	524,717	902,091
Puerto Rico.....	8,624	5,611	49,215	78,456
Brazil.....	35,656	16,629	476,884	191,959
Colombia.....	133	538	1,384	2,156
Other South America.....	2,355	269	19,151	12,382

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	December—		Twelve months ending December—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—</b>				
Continued.				
<b>Hams (<i>Jamones; Presunto; Jambons</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	\$2,487	\$3,504	\$24,325	\$27,819
Mexico.....	3,912	5,123	29,530	40,591
Santo Domingo.....	881	923	7,061	6,707
Cuba.....	48,502	54,190	355,622	722,314
Puerto Rico.....	338	1,753	16,761	26,521
Brazil.....	550	523	4,207	3,958
Colombia.....	1,289	1,143	13,793	18,588
Other South America.....	9,453	8,545	76,972	84,930
<b>Pork (<i>Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	5,716	8,661	72,778	68,686
Santo Domingo.....	324	1,065	6,519	7,548
Cuba.....	2,023	44,159	17,748	182,549
Puerto Rico.....	9,835	14,694	138,005	205,606
Brazil.....	2,838	-----	7,152	3,063
Colombia.....	709	836	8,420	32,032
Other South America.....	29,088	15,125	238,290	199,963
<b>Lard (<i>Manteca; Banha; Saindoux</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	8,967	15,163	169,895	172,391
Mexico.....	13,865	40,302	148,287	329,480
Santo Domingo.....	1,526	1,433	32,145	24,392
Cuba.....	92,601	155,191	1,058,055	1,809,799
Puerto Rico.....	14,228	21,424	211,379	250,976
Argentina.....	-----	400	3,655	4,901
Brazil.....	75,305	73,177	1,146,359	992,515
Colombia.....	8,843	6,396	93,274	137,541
Other South America.....	50,998	52,169	644,628	711,978
<b>Oleo and oleomargarine (<i>Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Oléo et oléomargarine</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	68	450	1,695	4,685
Mexico.....	-----	127	1,102	984
Colombia.....	1,104	335	9,194	11,925
Other South America.....	1,652	270	13,816	24,006
<b>Butter (<i>Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	5,423	5,480	47,881	50,420
Mexico.....	5,802	3,580	46,530	50,132
Santo Domingo.....	496	1,105	10,531	8,205
Cuba.....	12,081	4,564	28,653	99,120
Puerto Rico.....	476	148	4,689	5,050
Brazil.....	24,619	21,284	130,585	226,169
Colombia.....	2,205	1,002	15,511	16,006
Other South America.....	10,818	5,114	108,162	173,470
<b>Cheese (<i>Queso; Queijo; Fromage</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,580	2,686	17,553	20,445
Mexico.....	1,714	2,825	15,419	26,006
Santo Domingo.....	426	1,175	4,631	5,304
Cuba.....	17,112	3,310	46,890	62,590
Puerto Rico.....	1,644	2,675	5,335	36,942
Brazil.....	31	-----	521	252
Colombia.....	764	692	8,974	8,443
Other South America.....	2,259	1,189	16,484	13,725
<b>Sugar, refined (<i>Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	2,369	4,624	32,447	26,559
Mexico.....	1,057	355	14,180	56,530
Santo Domingo.....	165	102	1,205	834
Colombia.....	1,272	731	17,138	15,556
Other South America.....	239	-----	1,565	2,128
<b>Tobacco, unmanufactured (<i>Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	3,496	1,140	27,259	26,340
Mexico.....	20,088	16,246	142,613	166,098
Argentina.....	3,860	-----	19,794	22,425
Colombia.....	996	1,461	7,742	7,761
Other South America.....	7,693	3,224	103,517	97,987
<b>Tobacco, manufactures of (<i>Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabrique</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	6,032	5,851	56,544	54,320
Mexico.....	499	389	27,164	15,805
Cuba.....	9,864	16,533	120,153	189,383

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	December—		Twelve months ending December—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Tobacco, manufactures of—Continued.</b>				
Argentina .....	\$776	\$3, 159	\$3, 621	\$20, 988
Brazil .....	500	-----	1, 050	352
Colombia .....	421	773	5, 833	7, 428
Other South America .....	9, 234	4, 751	86, 384	57, 469
<b>Wood, unmanufactured (<i>Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	1, 155	2, 893	25, 817	24, 550
Mexico .....	23, 426	5, 903	391, 706	138, 456
Cuba .....	507	4, 966	29, 098	53, 011
Argentina .....	2, 295	3, 400	16, 699	17, 651
Brazil .....	4, 284	-----	4, 359	240
Colombia .....	-----	-----	26, 033	15, 584
Other South America .....	3, 185	9, 792	34, 213	70, 876
<b>Lumber (<i>Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	6, 776	3, 063	47, 660	55, 701
Mexico .....	60, 474	58, 784	733, 423	61, 859
Santo Domingo .....	739	2, 823	28, 837	36, 704
Cuba .....	89, 756	60, 834	334, 355	916, 472
Puerto Rico .....	-----	24, 411	25, 725	145, 594
Argentina .....	95, 180	111, 362	975, 226	1, 015, 418
Brazil .....	54, 689	76, 136	578, 154	483, 035
Colombia .....	1, 781	6, 981	44, 889	68, 354
Other South America .....	38, 320	45, 434	529, 722	599, 075
<b>Furniture (<i>Muebles; Mobília; Meubles</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	6, 530	5, 160	44, 046	39, 384
Mexico .....	9, 289	26, 824	177, 115	324, 912
Santo Domingo .....	291	1, 308	8, 361	7, 917
Cuba .....	6, 212	27, 191	21, 184	218, 221
Puerto Rico .....	1, 715	1, 840	6, 282	40, 744
Argentina .....	1, 884	21, 452	53, 671	117, 655
Brazil .....	3, 759	3, 395	29, 009	41, 562
Colombia .....	3, 848	1, 240	26, 736	27, 221
Other South America .....	5, 935	1, 263	73, 732	66, 504

## THE STEEL CAR INDUSTRY.

Up to 1896 there was practically no steel car industry in the United States. At the beginning of 1900, however, there are 10,000 men and boys employed in the manufacture of steel freight cars, and the prospects are bright for a great increase during the year. Steel cars of United States manufacture are to be found in various parts of the Western Hemisphere, in Europe, and even in Africa and other regions in which, for obvious reasons, they are preferred to the ordinary wooden cars. A load that would crush the ordinary wooden vehicle is carried with ease by its steel successor. One hundred thousand pounds is a common specification for their capacity. Only recently, 2,500 cars, each capable of carrying this immense weight, were ordered from "The Pressed Steel Car Company," at Pittsburg by three of the leading railroads of the United States, the value of the order amounting to \$2,750,000. During December, 1899, the French Government ordered from the company named, 100 steel freight cars for the Paris, Lyons and Mediterranean Railroad. About 70 cars are being made for the use of the British Government on the Egyptian Railroad—a narrow-gauge road in Egypt. Skilled workmen will be sent from the United States to put them together, as they are shipped in sections.

The greater the carrying capacity of the steel car, the smaller is the ratio of its weight to the load carried. The steel car carrying 100,000 pounds weighs 35,000 pounds, the same weight as a wooden car carrying only 70,000 pounds. The life of the wooden car averages fifteen years, and it costs \$35 a year, on an average, to keep it in repair. The steel car, it is estimated, will run for fifty years and its repair bill amount to but \$10 to \$15 a year.

#### NEW RAILROAD FOR PUERTO RICO.

A new railroad is to be built with United States capital in Puerto Rico, and Pennsylvania firms will supply most of the equipment. The road will eventually connect Mayaguez with the capital, San Juan, which cities are some 70 miles apart. At the present the line will be constructed between San Juan and a point about 40 miles distant from that city. The order for rails, which will comprise about 36 miles of 36-inch gauge track and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles of portable track, will be executed by the Pennsylvania Steel Company. Two locomotives will be manufactured in Pennsylvania for this road. The "American Car and Foundry Company" will furnish 30 cars and R. S. NEWBOLD & Co. will supply two steel water tanks. The company will build a dock at San Juan to facilitate the handling of freight.

#### COMMERCE OF PUERTO RICO.

According to the report of the War Department of the United States the total value of the imports into the island of Puerto Rico from the date of its occupation by the United States forces to December 31, 1899, was \$12,191,829, while the total value of the exports for the period named was \$11,696,807, or a total foreign commerce of \$23,888,636.

The value of the imports from the United States was \$4,687,826, or  $38\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the total, while the value of the exports to the United States was \$3,502,766, or 30 per cent of the total.

#### PROPOSED BREEDERS' EXPORT ASSOCIATION.

Recent changes in the interstate tariff laws of Mexico have given Mexicans a long-sought market in the United States and the open markets of the world for their horses, cattle, sheep, swine, and wool, at prices much more remunerative than farmers had previously enjoyed. This has also created a demand for improved breeding stock in Mexico, and ranchmen are stocking their *haciendas* with blooded animals. It is stated that great numbers have been bought in Kansas and sent to Mexico by the carload. To those familiar with stock breeding, there is a demand for more extensive knowledge on local conditions in Mexico, and they unanimously agree that some great movement should be set on foot to popularize United States stock in the Mexican Republic. With this in view a number of the leading breeders in Kansas and Missouri propose to organize an "American Breeders' Export Association,"

which will acquire an improved farm by lease or purchase in the great alfalfa, corn, and grazing district of Mexico, placing it under the care of a permanent manager, who will receive the stock consigned by the members, prepare it for sale, or retain it as a nucleus of a greater breeding establishment, as desired.

The association will be incorporated under the laws of the State of Kansas and capitalized at \$10,000, with shares of \$100 each. Mr. A. B. HULIT, of Kansas City, Mo., has been asked to interest breeders throughout the States named in the movement.

It is believed that such an organization will lend prestige and give standing to the stock sold through the association, for the Mexican breeder will at once understand that animals bearing the association's ear tag will have its moral guarantee.

It is also proposed that there be published under the auspices of the association a live-stock journal in the Spanish language, this paper to contain a permanent list of the members, with the post-office address and class of stock raised by each. It is further intended that the association will receive a commission on all stock sold through it, and that annual public sales of stock offered will be held in Mexico.

#### COMMERCE WITH HAITI.

The Consul-General of Haiti at New York reports the exports to his country for October, November, and December, 1899, to have been valued as follows: Merchandise, \$694,472.59; specie, \$281,636.50; total, \$976,109.09. The imports from Haiti to the United States during the same period were 11,164,671 pounds in weight, of a value of \$193,970.

#### EXPORTS OF COFFEE FROM PUERTO RICO.

Respecting the coffee trade of the island of Puerto Rico, the War Department of the United States has furnished the following statistics of the exports from the date of the occupation of the country by the United States: Number of pounds, 53,243,025, valued at \$6,139,955.

Of the exports France received 21,501,479 pounds; Spain, 8,102,696 pounds; Italy, 5,727,557 pounds; Cuba, 5,455,067 pounds; Germany, 4,764,661 pounds; United States, 2,608,642 pounds; Great Britain, 115,234 pounds; the West Indies, 9,488 pounds; other countries, 4,958,201 pounds.

The annual average exports of coffee during the years 1887-1891 was 40,349,000 pounds, valued at \$4,945,000 on an average for each year. The annual average value of coffee exported during the years 1892 to 1896 was \$10,872,000. This was a period prior to the great depreciation in the value of coffee everywhere. The annual average quantity of coffee exported in this period was 49,229,000 pounds.

#### SUGAR EXPORTS FROM PUERTO RICO.

The reports transmitted to the War Department from Puerto Rico show that the total amount of sugar exported from that island from the

date of its occupation to December 31, 1899, was 85,923,784 pounds, valued at \$1,998,031. Of this amount the United States received 84,409,256 pounds, valued at \$1,917,572. Of the remainder Germany took 374,445 pounds; the West Indies, 413,746 pounds; Spain, 265,724 pounds; Cuba, 66,424 pounds; Italy, 1,249 pounds; France, 303 pounds; other countries, 1,392,637 pounds.

#### PRINTED MATTER AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

Hon. F. W. PECK, the head of the United States Commission to the Paris Exposition, has received a message from Paris stating that the customs laws of France imposing a high duty on printed matter to be circulated for advertising purposes at the Paris Exposition have been repealed by the French Government. These laws are prohibitive of an important and valuable adjunct to Exposition work unless the exhibitors have their printing done in France, which is found impracticable. Mr. PECK had been seeking for several months to relieve the exhibitors of the United States of this heavy tax, and in his effort was assisted by the Secretary of State at Washington and by Ambassador PORTER at Paris.

#### RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN HAWAII.

Plans for railway construction in Hawaii will be carried on very extensively in 1900, according to Mr. R. E. CONDON, a railway contractor, who recently returned to the United States from Honolulu. Messrs. T. L. & A. JOHNSON, of Cleveland, Ohio, will probably construct about 300 miles of road during the season. Their project includes several lines of electric road in Honolulu and other places on the island of Oahu. Work is to begin early in March, and the Messrs. JOHNSON are at present placing orders for material. The Kohala and Hilo Railway Company will soon let contracts for the first section of its electric road from Honolulu to Kohala. This road will be 130 miles in length.

#### MILL CONSTRUCTION IN 1899.

The "Textile World" for January, 1900, contains a report on the construction of textile mills in the United States during the year 1899. By this it can be seen that during the year there were erected 91 cotton, 49 woolen, 57 knitting, 32 silk, and 16 miscellaneous mills, or 245 in all, against a grand total of 134 in 1898. Two-thirds of the cotton mills were erected in Southern States, while the increase in the number of woolen mills is greater in New England than elsewhere in the country. Of the silk mills constructed, the larger number were in the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The miscellaneous mills include the following: Bleaching and dyeing, crash toweling, linen, absorbent linen, twine, and cordage. The total number of new spindles in 1899 in cotton factories was 1,390,884. Two carpet mills were built, one in the State of Alabama and one in the State of South Carolina.

Two of the new woolen mills in New England are for fine worsted goods and yarns, one of them being on the French system of spinning.

### FARM STOCK STATISTICS.

The "Orange Judd Farmer," in its annual farm stock report, says:

"As compared with a year ago there is an increase in the number of every class of farm animals in the United States except mules, and coincident with this increase in numbers is a very substantial advance in the average price per head of all animals. The returns show that not only has the lawful shrinkage in this form of wealth between 1892 and 1896 been recovered, but the aggregate valuation of all farm stock now passes any previous record.

"The low point in the valuation of farm animals was in January, 1896, when the aggregate had fallen to \$1,860,420,000. In 1899 the total valuation is reported at \$2,558,111,000. The advance in value during the past year was the largest in any twelve months since the tide turned upward, amounting to \$343,058,000.

"The number of horses is reported at 14,886,000, an increase of one-half of 1 per cent during the past year; mules at 2,240,000, a decrease of 1.2 per cent; cows at 19,308,000, an increase of 2.1 per cent; other cattle at 32,075,000, an increase of 1.3 per cent; sheep at 42,820,000 and hogs at 49,242,000, an increase of six-tenths per cent.

"The advance in the average price per head from the low point reached at the depth of the depression amounts to 36 per cent for horses, 23 for mules, 50 for cows, 76 for other cattle, 86 for sheep, and 21 for hogs. In the upward swing only cattle and sheep have passed the previous record of prices per head."

### RECEIPTS OF MILD COFFEES IN 1899.

The total receipts of mild-grade coffees in the United States during 1899, as compiled by a New York firm, show an increase in Savanilla grades over the preceding year of 16,044 bags. The increase in the other mild grades was 49,093 bags, made up of 15,448 Mexican, 28,166 La Guayra, 870 Coro, and 4,609 Jamaica sorts. A decrease is shown in Maracaibo grades of 96,677 bags, compared with those of 1898. Total receipts of all kinds of mild coffee show a decrease of 2,318 bags, compared with those of 1898. The number of bags of each kind was as follows:

	1899.	1898.
Maracaibo .....	329, 507	426, 184
Savanilla .....	208, 271	192, 227
Central America .....	78, 126	165, 517
Mexican .....	141, 244	125, 796
La Guayra .....	73, 288	45, 122
Coro .....	7, 915	7, 145
Jamaica .....	29, 749	25, 140
Costa Rica .....	116, 713	.....
Total .....	984, 813	987, 131

In 1898 the receipts from Costa Rica were included in the Central American column, but in 1899 Costa Rica coffee was graded as a separate product.

## URUGUAY.

### MINISTER RESIDENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

According to "La Nación," of a recent date, Dr. JUAN L. CUESTAS has been named for Minister Resident in the United States by the President. The decree is dated January 15, 1900, and it is believed that the nomination will be confirmed by Congress.

### FOREIGN COMMERCE FOR NINE MONTHS.

Recently published statistics of the custom-house in regard to the imports and exports for the nine months from January to September, 1899, are as follows:

Articles.	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTS.</b>		
Beverages .....	\$1,759,730	\$2,096,383
Articles of nutriment .....	3,574,152	3,344,561
Tobacco and cigars .....	174,683	171,421
Dry goods .....	3,975,523	4,181,207
Clothing .....	1,043,236	1,110,208
Raw material .....	4,692,893	4,872,156
Miscellaneous products .....	2,007,813	2,086,736
Live stock .....	2,031,367	1,977,253
Total .....	19,259,397	19,839,925
<b>EXPORTS.</b>		
Live stock .....	242,480	264,537
Beeves and their products .....	22,697,394	18,311,556
Agricultural products .....	1,943,481	3,084,324
Miscellaneous .....	203,060	200,193
Miscellaneous articles .....	3,006	2,631
Ship stores .....	67,333	58,677
Total .....	25,156,724	21,921,968

### IMPORTANT GEOGRAPHICAL CHART.

Señor MELITÓN GONZÁLEZ is now about putting the finishing touches on the Geographical Chart of the Republic of Uruguay. When finished, this important work will represent the labor of ten years and will be the record of accumulated data and antecedents acquired from trustworthy sources and personal observations. "El Siglo," of Montevideo, states that the map or chart is not perfect, as it is not based upon a perfect triangulation of the territory of the country—the only way of making an absolutely correct map—but it is the most accurate graphic representation which has been made up to date. It is drawn on a scale of 1:500,000. The perimeter of the Republic from Salto to Colonia agrees generally with the hydrographic charts of the English Admiralty.



From Salto to Santa Rosa it has followed other antecedents and operations of the author.

The southern boundary—that is, the River Plate, has been drawn following the lines of the Hydrographic Bureau of Madrid, Lobo, and Riudavetes, partial plans of lands, and surveys of telegraph and railway lines, etc. The western boundary as far as Chuy has been drawn from the hydrographic charts and recent surveys made of the coast of the Department of Rocha, Port of Coronilla, Port of Paloma, Maldonado, the reclaiming of the Maravillas, Santa Teresa, and other marshes. From Chuy to Artigas, and then from Artigas to the mouth of the Cuareim, the only geodetic operation performed in the country, which is the triangulation made for determining the boundary between Uruguay and Brazil, has been followed, comparing the Uruguayan and Brazilian antecedents and correcting the errors found therein. There are departments, like that of Rocha, which will appear on the map for the first time, and the author in delineating its boundaries has made use of the surveys made by the parties carrying out the reclamation of the marshes surrounding the Negra and San Miguel Lagoons in the said department, where very delicate topographical operations were conducted. The map, when finished, will be printed in Paris.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF BOTANICAL SPECIMENS.

Prof. JOSÉ ARECHAULETA, of Montevideo, who during the month of November last made a botanical excursion through the Departments of Rivera and Cuchilla Negra, has recently finished the preparation and classification of the important botanical specimens secured. These numbered 263 species, represented by about 800 specimens. Of the 263 species 20 are absolutely new to botanists, 6 belonging to the *graminaceous* family, 2 to the *leguminosæ*, 1 to the *viola*, 6 to the *compositæ*, etc. Some of the species heretofore unknown are especially interesting to pharmacopœia, for example, those belonging to the genus *paulinia*, as they contain a tonic-stimulating substance similar to the kola, with the new species of the *graminaceous* family the collection now in the National Museum will be augmented to 304 species, 254 of which have been described by Professor ARECHAULETA, who from this fact draws the conclusion that the agricultural lands of the Republic are exceptionally adapted to the cultivation of cereals. As a fact the *graminaceous* plants occupy over half of the vegetable belt of the Republic. It is contended that the botanical collection in the Uruguayan Museum is the largest and most important of any in South America.

#### SUBSTITUTION OF NICKEL FOR COPPER COINS.

A bill relating to the substitution of nickel for minor copper coins, recently forwarded to Congress by the President, has been published. The amount proposed is \$500,000. The message accompanying the bill dwells on the great advantage of nickel over copper for small currency;

points out that such coins were adopted by Belgium in 1860, by Germany, Switzerland, and the United States in 1866, for Jamaica in 1869, by Brazil in 1872, by Chile in 1873, by Venezuela in 1877, and by Greece, Italy, and the Argentine Republic in 1896. The copper money now in circulation in the country is estimated at \$376,000, but it is not thought that a larger sum in nickel coins will cause any inconvenience or depreciation of the currency. The President does not give any estimate of the probable profits accruing to the Government (which will certainly be considerable), but states that if there be any such they will be devoted to the establishment of schools and the building and repairing of schoolhouses and roads in the interior.

#### COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES IN 1899.

The Consul-General of the Republic of Uruguay reports from Baltimore that the exports to Uruguay from July 1 to December 31, 1899, from the United States were valued at \$1,187,954.21; for the same period the imports from Uruguay amounted to \$813,958.33. The total exports from the United States to Uruguay for the year 1899 were valued at \$1,815,257.13; for 1898 they were valued at \$1,349,816.15; showing an increase for the first-named year of \$465,440.98. The imports into the United States from Uruguay for 1899 amounted in value to \$2,011,543.31; for 1898 they were valued at \$1,927,297.53; showing an increase for 1899 of only \$84,245.78. Of this amount, however, \$63,067.73 was the value of *tasajo*, or jerked beef, reshipped to Cuba in bond. During the first half year of 1899 not one foot of yellow pine was exported from Southern ports, while from July 1 to December 31 of that year there was shipped from Savannah pine lumber to the value of \$27,917; from Mobile, \$89,396.27 worth; from Ship Island, \$35,991.75 worth, giving a total of \$153,305.02.

There was also shipped from Savannah during the same period resin to the value of \$9,600.93, and from Brunswick to the value of \$13,041.50; making a total of \$22,642.43. The total shipments from the Southern ports of the United States to Uruguay for the last half year of 1899 were valued at \$175,947.45. The increased duties charged on imports into Uruguay from January 1, 1900, which amounts to 3 per cent, to create a fund for the port works at Montevideo, no doubt had much to do with the increased exports to Uruguay. Not one bale of wool—one of the largest products of Uruguay—was imported into the United States during the entire year 1899. The shipments of this article to Europe, where it is imported free, were largely increased, and the prices realized were higher than for many years past.

#### GENERAL CENSUS ORDERED.

President CUESTAS has issued a decree providing for the taking of a general census of the Republic on March 1, 1900. This will be the first general census taken since 1860. The census of the capital was

taken a year or two ago and will not be again taken this year; but all the rest of the Republic will be covered by the provisions of the law referred to.

As no census has been taken in Uruguay for forty years, consequently the present ideas concerning the population, industry, the existence of cattle, etc., are simply estimates. A law ordering a general census was passed in 1873, but was not executed. The last effort was made during the Administration of President BORDA, but this also failed.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The contract agreed upon between the Municipal Council of Montevideo and the representative of the Reducto, Este, Pocitos, Buceo and Union Tramway Company, calling for the change of traction from animal to electric, was signed on December 7, 1899. This contract will have to be submitted to the Uruguayan Congress, and should the delay in obtaining its sanction not be excessive it is stated electric cars will be running in the capital soon.

According to statistics recently collected in several Departments of the Republic of Uruguay during the year 1899, there were 805,530 kilos of grapes, and 218,800 liters of wine produced in the Department of Montevideo; the production in the Department of Canelones was 150,800 kilos of grapes and 83,700 liters of wine; in the Department of Salto there were produced 244,250 kilos of grapes and 160,500 liters of wine.

The Bureau of Live Stock and Agriculture is endeavoring to organize a congress of horticulturists with a view of discovering means to combat the diseases of fruit trees, which are threatened with total extinction in the Republic, where in October of last year the pear and apple trees were almost entirely destroyed by pests.

The "Siglo" is advocating the holding of a South American Exposition in Montevideo during the year 1901 or 1902. This journal believes that the time is propitious and that such an exhibition will be of vast benefit to all the South American Republics, demonstrating to the world their development and progress.

The Government has issued a decree, important in these days when the plague is prevalent in the countries along the Plate and Paraguay rivers, approving the convention signed by the Sanitary Council of Montevideo, by which Uruguay joins the sanitary league already established between Brazil and the Argentine Republic.

The National Department of Engineers reports that during the year 1898 there were extracted 5,235,520 kilos of gold quartz, which produced 74,708 grams of gold, thus constituting an average yield of 14.29 grams of gold, or \$6.35 per ton.

It is reported that an Argentine syndicate is endeavoring to acquire 200 hectares along the shores of the Department of Soriano, which it purposes converting into a fine park (with buildings) to serve as recreation grounds for the people of Montevideo.

The Italian Government has determined to create a separate legation at Montevideo. Heretofore the Italian Government has maintained one legation for the Argentine Republic in Uruguay, with a residence at Buenos Ayres.

The question of the construction of a railroad to Trinidad from Montevideo is again being agitated, and a company is being formed with local capital to carry out the project.

Very rich and numerous deposits of coal and iron have been discovered in the Department of Treinta y Tres.

## VENEZUELA.

### INCREASED CUSTOMS DUTIES.

According to the "Gaceta Oficial" of January 5, 1900, the following executive tariff decree went into effect the day of its publication, the additional rate being reduced to United States currency values:

"ARTICLE I. The following articles which are shipped to this Republic will bear an additional duty, which will be called 'war duty:'"

Articles.	Duty per kilogram (2.2046 pounds).	
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Flour from wheat imported into the country.....	.15	2.90
Tobacco (picadura) .....	.60	11.58
Brandy, or cognac and essences, up to 22° Cartier.....	3.00	57.90
Wine, red or white .....	.60	11.58
Stearin, unmanufactured, pure as well as mixed with paraffin (commercial stearin).....	.20	3.96
"Batisage," or felts, without trimmings, for hats .....	1.50	28.95
Leather, manufactured .....	4.00	77.20
Perfumery, all kinds.....	1.50	28.95
Oil not perfumed, except kerosene.....	.20	3.86
Butter, pure .....	.60	11.58
Cheese.....	.75	14.48
Alimentary preserves.....	.75	14.48
Hams, untinned.....	.75	14.48
Sausages.....	.75	14.48
Cassimere, woolen or mixed with cotton .....	3.00	57.90
Biscuits, of whatever kind, and packing .....	.75	14.48
Rice, in grain or flour.....	.10	1.93

"ART. II. Articles and merchandise not comprised in the preceding enumeration will undergo an increase of 20 per cent upon the tariff duties declared by decree of November 7 last past.

"ART. III. The 'war duty' will also be effective upon articles and merchandise exported to foreign countries, as follows:

Articles.	Duty.	
	<i>Bolivars.</i>	
Hides of cattle, deer, or goats, per 50 kilograms (110.23 pounds).....	8	\$1. 544
Coffee, per 46 kilograms (101.412 pounds).....	1	. 193
Cacao, sweet Ocumare and the like, per 50 kilograms (110.23 pounds) .....	8	1. 544
Cacao, tuy, and the like, per 50 kilograms (110.23 pounds) .....	6	1. 158
Cacao, trinitario, and the like, per 50 kilograms (110.23 pounds) .....	4	. 772

In order to meet the urgent demands of the public service in Venezuela, growing out of the recent political disturbances in that country, an export duty of 10 *bolivars* per head is imposed on cattle shipped from any port of the Republic. The duty is a temporary one and is to be repealed so soon as the causes requiring it shall disappear

#### COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Consul-General of Venezuela at New York reports the total exports to all ports of his country during the month of December, 1899, as follows: Packages, 30,344; weight, 1,639,473.60 kilos; value, \$125,432.87, showing a net falling off of \$250,000.36 as compared with the same month of 1898.

#### GREAT BRITAIN'S ALL-AMERICAN COMMERCE.

The December issue of the "Monthly Accounts of Trade and Navigation" of Great Britain contains preliminary information of the commercial transactions of the country for the year 1899. Full particulars of the import and export trade of the United Kingdom, in each article and with each foreign country and British possession, for the period of five years are contained in the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom," which will not be ready for publication for sometime. In the tables in these "Accounts" the imports are generally classified as received from the countries whence they were shipped. In a great majority of cases the country of shipment is also the country of origin; but this is not always the case, for, to a greater or smaller extent, merchandise originating in one country is credited in the tables to that country at whose ports it has been transshipped. Paraguay and Bolivia, in South America, are countries having no seaboard, and therefore do not figure in the returns. The exports are, as a rule, credited to the country of ultimate destination, as declared by the exporters in their entries. However, exports to those countries which possess no seaboard are credited to the country in which the port of discharge is situated. For example, if a shipment of goods is made to Paraguay it would be credited either to the Argentine Republic or to Uruguay.

In 1899 there was a considerable increase in the commerce of Great Britain as compared with 1898. The imports from foreign countries and British possessions are valued at £485,075,574 in the calendar year 1899, against £470,378,583 in 1898; or, reduced to United States currency values—£1 equaling \$4.8665—the amount for 1899 was \$2,360,619,988.88, against \$2,289,097,374.17 in 1898, an increase of \$71,522,614.71.

The exports of British and Irish products and manufactures amounted to £264,660,647 in 1899 and £233,359,240 in 1898; the foreign and colonial merchandise exported is valued at £65,019,549 in 1899, against £60,654,748 in 1898; the total value of exports in 1899 is therefore £329,680,196, against £294,013,988 in 1898; or, reduced to United States currency values, the exports in the years named amounted to \$1,604,378,673.83 and \$1,430,819,072.62, respectively. The exports for 1899 include the value of new ships not registered as British (£9,195,192 = \$44,748,401.87), which was wholly an item of increase. Without this item the increase in exports amounted to \$128,711,199.36.

#### I.—COMMERCE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

In this connection a comparison of the commercial statistics of Great Britain and those of the United States for a quarter of a century shows some interesting facts. Great Britain's imports in 1875 were worth \$1,319,799,000, and in 1899 had increased to \$2,360,620,000; the imports of the United States were valued at \$503,152,936 in 1875, and at \$798,845,571 in 1899. For every year of the twenty-five under comparison, except 1888, there was an excess of exports by the United States, while in the case of the United Kingdom there was an excess of imports for every year of the period. In 1875 the excess of exports by the United States was \$7,794,486, and in 1899 it was \$476,654,100, while on the part of Great Britain the excess of imports in 1875 was \$449,314,000, with an excess in 1899 of \$756,231,315.

During the twenty-five years named the foreign-commerce account of the United States shows a total excess of exports over imports of \$3,971,566,000, while that of Great Britain shows a total excess of imports over exports of \$14,489,004,000.

The exports of domestic merchandise from the United Kingdom were \$1,287,971,038.63 in 1899, against \$1,135,642,741.46 in 1898, an increase of \$152,328,297.17. The chief contribution to the year's increase appears to have been in metals and articles manufactured therefrom, and in regard to this item it is notable that the gain has been owing to an increase in prices rather than to additional shipments.

From 1875 to 1899 Great Britain's domestic exports increased from \$1,087,497,000 to \$1,287,971,000, or 19 per cent, while, including "colonial and foreign" exports, the increase from 1875 to 1899 was from \$1,370,465,000 to \$1,640,388,674, an increase of 20 per cent. The exports of domestic products from the United States increased from

\$497,263,737 in 1875 to \$1,253,486,000 in 1899, or 152 per cent. Including foreign articles, the exports from the United States in 1875 amounted to \$510,947,422, and in 1899 to \$1,275,486,641, an increase of 150 per cent.

The imports from all American countries, so far as they can be ascertained from the December issue of the "Monthly Accounts," amounted to \$478,618,012.77 in 1899, against \$515,488,724.29 in 1898. The exports to these countries are valued at \$120,053,367.58, against \$106,961,995.67 in 1898, more than half of which went to the United States. The greater part of the imports were from the United States. The summary of the imports from and exports to the United States is contained in the following tables:

Articles.	1899.	1898.
IMPORTS.		
Cattle.....	£184,446	£219,706
Horses.....	791,410	779,059
Wheat.....	11,811,700	15,394,766
Flour.....	8,563,884	9,470,433
Barley.....	572,321	794,867
Oats.....	1,841,347	2,290,368
Corn.....	8,105,167	7,314,925
Bacon.....	6,552,180	6,438,239
Beef:		
Fresh.....	5,712,251	4,677,431
Salted.....	226,842	266,660
Hams.....	3,781,007	3,651,414
Salted pork.....	199,850	224,534
Lard.....	2,909,132	2,796,308
Other meats.....	214,283	156,706
Butter.....	704,061	285,309
Cheese.....	1,380,609	1,006,586
Tallow and stearin.....	600,128	538,243
Fish, cured or salted.....	558,580	515,937
Hops.....	587,536	838,074
Sugar, refined.....	9,587	8,212
Linseed.....	183,976	65,138
Copper ore, etc.....	218,523	315,921
Pig and puddled iron.....	219,715	180,615
Pig and sheet lead.....	475,777	399,257
Raw cotton.....	19,164,130	27,513,032
Wood pulp.....	62,922	68,189
Hewn timber.....	808,365	654,604
Sawed or split timber.....	1,612,884	1,423,408
Clocks, and parts of.....	109,893	91,466
Leather.....	3,362,539	3,036,811
Paper:		
Unprinted.....	291,304	396,913
Printed.....	36,887	34,956
Petroleum.....	3,437,937	3,023,786
Total.....	85,291,467	94,871,883
U. S. currency values.....	\$415,070,924.16	\$461,694,018.62

A notable instance of the decrease of Great Britain's imports from the United States was raw cotton, and it does not appear that the diminution was made up elsewhere, for the number of pounds imported into the United Kingdom from all countries in 1899 was 1,452,039,100 as against 1,900,489,600 in 1898. This would indicate either that there was not so much manufacturing or that the present supply of raw cotton on hand was much less than usual.

The value of the imports of United States wheat and wheat flour was much less in 1899 than 1898, but for the former this appears to be partly

due to the increased imports from the Argentine Republic, Russia, and British East India. There was an increased amount of flour imported from the United States, but it was valued at a much lower figure than in 1898. The number of pounds imported was 1,840,579,600, against 1,744,589,000 in 1898. The total number of pounds imported from all countries was 2,294,570,800, against 2,101,710,900 in 1898, which shows that Great Britain is dependent on the United States for the greater part of its supply.

The exports to the United States included the following items:

Articles.	1899.	1898.
Beer and ale .....	£173, 319	£146, 193
Salt .....	85, 501	81, 146
Spirits .....	186, 078	176, 505
Cotton manufactures .....	1, 806, 116	1, 248, 812
Jute yarn and piece goods .....	343, 676	210, 399
Linen yarn and piece goods .....	1, 931, 053	1, 673, 341
Silk thread and manufactures .....	187, 305	162, 751
Woolen and worsted yarn .....	16, 004	13, 948
Woolen tissues .....	363, 457	286, 532
Worsted tissues .....	785, 597	764, 661
Carpets .....	62, 891	.....
Hardware and cutlery .....	122, 107	253, 827
Iron, including pig iron .....	459, 183	253, 822
Steel:		
Unwrought .....	330, 152	250, 405
Manufactured .....	83, 472	85, 537
Lead .....	807	1, 178
Tin, unwrought .....	11, 340	5, 944
Tin plates .....	755, 322	683, 913
Locomotives and machinery .....	464, 536	355, 379
Apparel .....	84, 845	77, 000
Chemicals .....	336, 851	363, 597
Cement .....	74, 697	87, 895
Earthen and china ware .....	651, 215	534, 223
Paper, all kinds .....	105, 144	111, 396
Saddlery and harness .....	49, 828	38, 557
Skins and furs .....	921, 604	709, 173
Cotton .....	1, 329, 080	900, 799
Tea .....	119, 957	146, 646
Wool .....	1, 556, 569	1, 463, 326
Sacks for merchandise .....	4, 245	2, 303
Total .....	13, 401, 961	10, 965, 042
U. S. currency .....	\$65, 220, 643. 21	\$53, 361, 376. 89

## II. COMMERCE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

### MEXICO.

Though there were undoubtedly some imports from Mexico, none appear in the preliminary report. Exports to that country were as follows:

Articles.	1899.	1898.
Cotton piece goods:		
Unbleached .....	\$10, 813. 36	\$11, 012. 89
Bleached .....	918, 264. 75	922, 883. 06
Printed .....	714, 154. 00	595, 737. 46
Dyed .....	496, 334. 34	412, 761. 93
Linen piece goods .....	198, 076. 23	200, 353. 81
Railroad iron .....	460, 906. 22	207, 103. 64
Galvanized iron .....	377, 046. 69	257, 666. 58
Total .....	3, 175, 595. 64	2, 607, 519. 37



## CENTRAL AMERICA.

The imports from Central America are not specified as to countries, and the value of only one item—coffee—is given. This amounted in 1899 to \$2,549,598.28, against \$5,307,278 in 1898.

The exports included the following:

Articles.	1899.	1898.
<b>EXPORTS.</b>		
Cotton goods:		
Unbleached .....	\$369,907.53	\$333,885.70
Bleached .....	406,907.53	322,454.29
Printed .....	516,987.76	301,727.87
Dyed .....	244,741.15	178,381.56
Galvanized sheet iron .....	88,005.79	67,396.16
Total .....	1,626,549.76	1,203,845.58

## SOUTH AMERICA.

Regarding South America as a whole, the imports and exports were as follows, in United States currency values:

	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTS.</b>		
Countries not specified .....	\$3,935,368.22	\$4,510,685.85
Argentine Republic .....	46,296,282.68	31,905,820.31
Brazil .....	1,645,509.91	2,443,782.11
Chile .....	7,201,930.89	6,231,416.99
Peru .....	1,918,398.63	3,395,722.04
Total .....	60,997,490.33	48,487,427.30
<b>EXPORTS.</b>		
Countries not specified .....	5,377,606.53	4,328,396.50
Argentine Republic .....	15,838,471.98	14,277,152.78
Brazil .....	14,824,695.67	18,440,906.03
Chile .....	5,198,582.65	4,178,045.71
Colombia .....	1,850,155.70	2,029,812.29
Peru .....	2,299,353.67	2,197,530.22
Uruguay .....	3,111,111.46	3,020,305.53
Venezuela .....	1,530,621.31	1,317,098.77
Total .....	50,030,578.97	49,789,253.83

Taken singly, the figures are according to the following tables, no imports appearing for several of the countries:

## ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Articles.	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTS.</b>		
Cattle .....	\$6,777,083.03	\$6,575,926.26
Sheep and lambs .....	2,912,288.79	3,101,848.70
Fresh mutton .....	7,251,892.84	6,608,346.88
Tallow and stearin .....	747,197.54	868,485.32
Wheat .....	17,626,769.59	8,535,373.82
Corn .....	7,782,441.56	3,507,953.26
Linseed .....	2,983,962.61	2,158,618.81
Wet hides <sup>a</sup> .....	214,646.72	549,267.26
Total .....	46,296,282.68	31,905,820.31

<sup>a</sup>Including value of those received from Uruguay.

## ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—Continued.

Articles.	1899.	1898.
EXPORTS.		
Cotton piece goods:		
Unbleached.....	\$740, 326. 05	\$895, 231. 61
Bleached.....	1, 898, 577. 38	2, 082, 798. 74
Printed.....	2, 233, 820. 83	1, 880, 177. 14
Dyed.....	1, 786, 574. 88	1, 343, 426. 52
Jute piece goods.....	1, 641, 037. 33	1, 005, 501. 63
Linen piece goods.....	249, 996. 97	215, 581. 09
Woolen tissues.....	720, 251. 73	749, 621. 06
Worsted tissues.....	1, 492, 156. 50	1, 210, 566. 21
Carpets.....	271, 010. 52	206, 573. 19
Hardware.....	162, 687. 10	159, 319. 43
Cutlery.....	83, 295. 01	78, 160. 86
Railroad iron.....	642, 193. 07	1, 269, 781. 78
Galvanized sheet iron.....	1, 378, 708. 65	1, 086, 718. 65
All other iron.....	1, 941, 543. 71	1, 540, 991. 82
Tin plates and sheets.....	226, 881. 10	241, 164. 27
Cement.....	143, 459. 55	151, 791. 00
China and earthen ware.....	225, 951. 60	159, 747. 73
Total.....	15, 838, 471. 98	14, 277, 152. 78

The number of bushels (60 pounds each) of wheat imported from the Argentine Republic in 1899 was 18,947,167 against 6,639,000 bushels in 1898 and 1,555,167 bushels in 1897.

## BRAZIL.

Articles.	1899.	1898.
IMPORTS.		
Unrefined sugar.....	\$310, 721. 16	\$1, 021, 147. 43
Coffee.....	706, 469. 81	828, 156. 64
Raw cotton.....	472, 517. 68	476, 392. 42
Wet hides.....	155, 791. 26	118, 085. 62
Total.....	1, 645, 509. 91	2, 443, 782. 11
EXPORTS.		
Coal, coke, etc.....	3, 016, 801. 75	2, 952, 500. 67
Cotton goods:		
Unbleached.....	254, 127. 72	398, 804. 81
Bleached.....	1, 481, 917. 38	2, 317, 806. 89
Printed.....	2, 930, 036. 92	4, 667, 611. 01
Dyed.....	1, 948, 011. 29	2, 118, 294. 72
Jute piece goods.....	112, 323. 69	344, 840. 19
Jute yarn.....	1, 030, 505. 71	1, 074, 469. 67
Linen piece goods.....	341, 370. 38	380, 133. 58
Woolen tissues.....	384, 847. 69	473, 588. 31
Worsted tissues.....	594, 102. 32	681, 305. 13
Copper manufactures.....	249, 724. 45	256, 852. 80
Hardware.....	170, 736. 29	148, 914. 90
Cutlery.....	200, 100. 75	182, 162. 83
Railroad iron.....	454, 462. 97	693, 140. 46
Galvanized sheet iron.....	227, 552. 20	241, 139. 94
Steel, manufactured.....	169, 067. 08	206, 762. 99
Tin plate and sheets.....	347, 828. 22	312, 117. 84
Leather, boots, and shoes.....	239, 212. 81	355, 638. 96
Cement.....	166, 210. 44	141, 576. 22
Earthenware and chinaware.....	294, 321. 05	283, 142. 70
Seed oil.....	211, 444. 56	210, 101. 41
Total.....	14, 824, 695. 67	18, 440, 906. 03

## CHILE.

IMPORTS.			
Wheat.....	\$413,321.58	\$1,607,171.36	
Copper ore.....	2,013,392.71	974,988.68	
Copper regulus and precipitates.....	790,553.19	594,642.50	
Copper unwrought and part wrought.....	3,984,663.41	3,054,614.45	
Total .....	7,201,930.89	6,231,416.99	
EXPORTS.			
Cotton piece goods:			
Unbleached.....	435,585.82	332,016.96	
Bleached.....	884,447.44	843,875.43	
Printed.....	831,718.92	576,412.59	
Dyed.....	834,560.95	505,264.36	
Woolen tissues.....	460,200.57	400,259.89	
Worsted tissues.....	500,524.39	301,080.62	
Carpets.....	127,818.62	89,436.54	
Hardware.....	36,617.97	49,287.91	
Cutlery.....	34,839.27	32,050.77	
Railroad iron.....	256,245.56	29,753.78	
Galvanized iron.....	272,241.74	264,182.82	
All other manufactured iron.....	523,781.40	454,424.04	
Total .....	5,198,582.65	4,178,045.71	

Under the head of "Manures," the "Accounts" show an import of 140,851 tons of nitrates in 1899, against 130,327 tons in 1898. The valuations of this product in the years under comparison were respectively \$5,206,040.57 and \$4,734,136.07. If all of the imports were from Chile, as was undoubtedly the case to a great extent, then these amounts must be added to the totals for that country for the years named.

## COLOMBIA.

Articles.	1899.	1898.
EXPORTS.		
Cotton piece goods:		
Unbleached.....	\$130,504.93	\$149,902.80
Bleached.....	596,462.57	620,916.74
Printed.....	679,733.25	764,984.60
Dyed.....	329,145.73	349,473.10
Linene piece goods.....	114,309.22	144,535.05
Total .....	1,850,155.70	2,029,812.29

## PERU.

IMPORTS.			
Unrefined sugar.....	\$909,256.86	\$2,496,874.62	
Alpaca, vicuna, and llama wool.....	1,009,141.77	898,847.42	
Total .....	1,918,398.63	3,395,722.04	
EXPORTS.			
Cotton piece goods:			
Unbleached.....	146,734.71	238,025.38	
Bleached.....	509,357.09	510,236.59	
Printed.....	641,102.98	536,497.56	
Dyed.....	387,042.48	372,496.51	
Woolen tissues.....	319,403.00	253,009.35	
Worsted tissues.....	167,052.35	164,969.43	
Railroad iron and steel.....	21,242.27	21,106.00	
All other iron manufactures.....	107,398.79	101,145.35	
Total .....	2,299,333.67	2,197,536.22	

## URUGUAY.

Articles.	1899.	1898.
<b>EXPORTS.</b>		
Cotton piece goods:		
Unbleached.....	\$234,752.03	\$317,315.27
Bleached.....	615,884.77	626,975.53
Printed.....	727,867.81	654,471.25
Dyed.....	572,971.98	582,218.33
Woolen tissues.....	196,314.61	220,282.12
Worsted tissues.....	420,942.52	334,942.52
Railroad iron.....	29,880.31	35,384.32
Galvanized iron.....	214,812.18	179,719.85
Bar iron.....	97,685.25	69,877.97
Total.....	3,111,111.46	3,020,305.53

## VENEZUELA.

<b>EXPORTS.</b>		
Cotton piece goods:		
Unbleached.....	\$72,345.39	\$79,703.54
Bleached.....	560,226.61	524,681.70
Printed.....	551,934.10	520,525.71
Dyed.....	346,115.21	192,187.82
Total.....	1,530,621.31	1,317,098.77

## TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA.

Consul RUFFIN says that what is most needed in machinery in Paraguay is an invention which can remove the pulp and break the hulls of the cocoa fruit without cracking the kernel. A number of machines have been invented for this purpose, but none of them have proved satisfactory. The Agricultural Bank has tried a French apparatus, but the cost is too great (\$850) to permit of its general adoption. What is needed is a machine costing about \$35.

The Monterey and Mexican Gulf Railway, according to the statement of the "Mexican Herald," will soon be in the market for 100 box cars. The offices of the company are located in Monterey, with Mr. ARTHUR MORMON, general manager of the road, in charge.

The Mexican Central Railway is to extend its line from Guadalajara southward to Colima and afterwards to Manzanillo. It is said that the road will need a considerable amount of new material. All contracts will be awarded by Mr. W. R. ANDREWS, City of Mexico.

Mr. JOHN N. RUFFIN, United States Consul at Asunción, states that there is a demand for "ponchos" in South America, and especially in Paraguay. These articles are of woven cotton or woolen material of about the length of an ordinary blanket, but not quite so wide, with a slit in the center about 12 inches long, through which the head is passed. The best ponchos are of a dark russet color, the ends ornamented with knotted work from 1.5 to 3.15 inches in depth, and a fringe of from 4.7 to 6.3 inches. Others are woven with longitudinal

stripes 2 inches in width of alternate white and brown threads. The latter are most in use. The woven part of the wool ponchos measure 7.2 by 4.84 feet. The cotton ponchos are 6.56 long by 4.6 feet wide, with knotted work of 1.5 inches and fringe of 6.3 inches depth on the ends. In 1898 Paraguay imported \$15,470 worth of cotton and \$28,113.80 worth of woolen ponchos.

In the State of São Paulo, Brazil, so the French Consul reports, the only machines which could be profitably imported are: First, those employed in the preparation of coffee, such as pulpers (for green coffee), decorticators (for dry coffee), ventilators, separators, and graders—machinery of this class is sent in part by the United States and England, and the rest is manufactured in the country and is very good and cheap; second, locomobile motors of 6, 8, and 10 horsepower for putting the above machines in motion; and third, all the accessories, such as belts, pulleys, shafts, etc.

The Belgian Consul at Merida, Mexico, says the importation of the following articles would meet with great favor:

Fire bricks; Portland cement; tiles for flooring (these are much used in Merida, and superior qualities are demanded, for the climate being such as to prevent the use of carpets, very rich tiles are required for apartments); ceramic tiles for covering walls; enameled tiles; French tiles; canned meats and vegetables (large quantities of these are consumed here); preserved butter (in Yucatan cattle are only raised for beef and for breeding purposes; at a *hacienda* containing 350 head of cattle the only butter used came from Denmark); ordinary guns (the Indians of Yucatan are very fond of firearms, and almost everyone has his gun). At Merida a very inferior quality of the single muzzle-loading gun of Spanish make is sold at prices ranging from \$15 to \$18 silver (\$7.40 to \$9). The entry duties are not heavy and it would be easy for the United States manufacturers to furnish guns of better quality which could be sold at the same price; woolen goods (although much of the woolen goods sold in Yucatan is now of home manufacture, yet foreign goods are still bought; the city of Merida imports nearly \$100,000 worth from England); building material, especially soft wood, which is scarce in many parts of the peninsula. There would no doubt be a good opening for iron structural material, if it were of a type suitable to the needs of the country.

The following cablegram, dated January 30, 1900, was received by the Department of State, at Washington, from Minister BRYAN, at Petropolis, Brazil:

"San Francisco Railroad requests bids [for] 5,000 tons soft coal yearly. Also all catalogues [of] iron structure."

According to a report from the British Consul-General to his Government in 1897, the San Francisco Railroad (Estrada de Ferro de São Francisco) is in the State of Bahia, and had at that date 281 miles

under traffic. To obviate delay, bids for coal and all catalogues relative to iron structure should be addressed and mailed direct to Hon. CHARLES PAGE BRYAN, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, Petropolis, Brazil.

The Board of Trade of Great Britain has received a communication from the "Fifth Company of Firemen," at Valparaiso, Chile, stating that the company requires a steam fire engine of a capacity of from 400 to 500 gallons, with various appurtenances. Tenders will be received for the same by E. DREYFUS, secretary to the company, up to March 31, 1900. No doubt the company would also favorably entertain propositions from manufacturers of fire engines and equipments in the United States.

The date for the receipt of bids for the improvement works of the port of Manãos, Brazil (see MONTHLY BULLETIN of November, p. 609), has been extended from December 6, 1899, to March 6, 1900.

The United States Consul at Progreso, Mexico, Mr. EDWARD H. THOMPSON, gives the following list of railway companies that are purchasing or are intending to purchase material for their respective roads: "Merida á Peto Ferrocarril," RODOLFO CANTON, president; "Merida á Progreso via Ancha" and "Merida á Tamal," JOAQUÍN PEON, president; "Merida á Valladolid via Angosta," Gen. FRANCISCO CANTON, president; "Sud Oriental de Yucatan," RAFAEL PEON Y LOSA, president. The "Compañía de Luz Eléctrica de Merida" (Electric Light Company of Merida), RAFAEL PEON, president, is also in the market for supplies.

Señor JUSTIANO SOTOMAYO, Minister of the Treasury, Calle Santo Domingo, No. 145, Santiago de Chile, wants bids until April, 1900, for two years' supply of linen paper of the size and quality used for stamp paper. The size of stamp paper used in Chile is about the size of foolscap and the consumption is large. Heretofore this paper has been bought in Germany and England.

HOPKINS, GARDOM & TETLEY, engineers, of Calle 25 de Mayo No. 130, Buenos Ayres, Argentina, have obtained a contract for the completion of the Transandine Railway. This road will be on the Argentine side of the Andes about 20 miles, and on the Chilean side about 22 miles in length, most of the route being through the mountains. The work includes several large tunnels, and considerable machinery and supplies will be required at an early date.

## CONFERENCE OF SOUTH AMERICAN PRESIDENTS.

"La República," of Guatemala City, is authority for the statement that the Legation of Ecuador, in the Republic of Uruguay, has informed the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Quito of the details of the visit of General ROCA, President of the Argentine Republic, to Montevideo. And the Minister adds that it is the general belief that by the end of this year (1900) there will be held in Buenos Ayres a conference of the Presidents of Brazil, Chile, the Argentine Republic, and Uruguay for the purpose of looking to the assurance of peace among those countries and to agree upon the bases for future commercial treaties. That the European press has already expressed its opinion upon the subject and has stated that the Governments of Berlin, Rome, Vienna, and Paris would be disposed to support the South American alliance against any aggression. The interest of the European nations in granting this support lies in their desire to defend their commercial supremacy in South American markets. It is further stated that the nations entering into the alliance will establish arbitration for every conflict that may arise, as well as the obligation to reduce their naval and land armaments proportionately.

## IMPORTS OF BANANAS AT NEW ORLEANS.

The following tables give the imports of bananas, and their value in gold, into the port of New Orleans from Central America and Colombia for the second half of the year 1899, according to the data communicated by the Consul of Costa Rica in that port to the Costa Rican Legation in Washington:

Country.	July.		August.		September.	
	Bunches.	Value.	Bunches.	Value.	Bunches.	Value.
Costa Rica.....	147,800	\$51,730	159,500	\$57,450	159,500	\$60,150
British Honduras.....	14,600	3,650	20,000	5,000	10,400	2,600
Guatemala.....	6,500	1,499	9,200	2,039	7,000	1,651
Honduras.....	174,217	41,548	184,823	41,027	169,560	38,927
Nicaragua.....	192,000	50,801	157,000	42,351	109,000	21,707
Colombia.....	43,000	16,856	32,000	11,926	25,000	5,892
Total.....	578,117	166,024	562,523	159,793	480,460	130,927

Country.	October.		November.		December.	
	Bunches.	Value.	Bunches.	Value.	Bunches.	Value.
Costa Rica.....	182,900	\$76,060	165,500	\$56,671	173,200	\$67,523
British Honduras.....	13,500	3,375	9,000	2,250	8,200	2,050
Guatemala.....	3,500	770	2,105	459	1,100	241
Honduras.....	151,559	33,190	104,342	22,728	122,200	26,639
Nicaragua.....	118,000	24,136	88,000	16,438	79,000	19,305
Colombia.....	35,000	8,326	16,000	3,531	62,000	18,996
Total.....	504,459	145,857	384,947	102,077	445,700	134,754

## RÉSUMÉ.

	Bunches.	Value.
Costa Rica.....	988,400	\$369,584
British Honduras.....	75,700	18,925
Guatemala.....	29,405	6,599
Honduras.....	906,601	204,059
Nicaragua.....	752,000	174,738
Colombia.....	213,000	65,527
Total.....	2,965,106	839,432

## BOOK NOTICES.

Books and pamphlets sent to the Bureau of the American Republics, and containing subject-matter bearing upon the countries of the International Union of American Republics, will be treated under this caption in the Monthly Bulletin.

The Report of the Nicaragua Canal Commission, 1897-1899, issued by the Friedenwald Company, of Baltimore, Md., has just been received by this Bureau. This Commission, appointed by the President under act approved June 4, 1897, was instructed to continue the surveys and commissions authorized by the act approved March 2, 1895, with a view to make complete plans for the entire work of constructing the Nicaragua Canal. As finally formed, the Commission consisted of Rear-Admiral JOHN G. WALKER, U. S. N., president; Col. PETER C. HAINS, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., and Prof. LEWIS M. HAUPT. The report of the Commission itself, together with those of the assistant engineers, makes a book of 502 pages, which contains numerous illustrations and diagrams explanatory of the text. Accompanying it is an atlas containing the following maps and profiles:

## MAPS.

No. 1.—In 4 sheets:

Sheet No. 1.—General Map of the Nicaragua Canal Region.

Sheet No. 2.—Geology of Canal Region.

Sheets Nos. 3. and 4.—Hydrology of Canal Region.

No. 2.—In 3 sheets, showing the projected lines of the Nicaragua Canal on the scale 5,000 feet to 1 inch.

No. 3.—In 20 sheets and Index sheet, showing the projected lines of the Nicaragua Canal on a scale of 1,500 feet to 1 inch.

No. 4.—Greytown Harbor.

No. 5.—Brito Harbor, showing Hydrography.

No. 6.—Hydrography Caribbean Coast from Indio River to the mouth of the Colorado River.

No. 7.—Lake Nicaragua.

## PROFILES.

No. 1.—In 2 sheets, showing Lull route, Variant 1, East Side.

No. 2.—In 2 sheets, showing Menocal route, East Side.

No. 3.—Showing Childs route, Variant I, West Side.



No. 4.—Showing Childs route, Variant II, West Side.

No. 5.—Showing proposed railroad from Greytown to Rio Savalos.

No. 6.—Showing proposed railroad from Lake Nicaragua to the Pacific Ocean.

Table of quantities for various Nicaragua Canal routes.

Plate XIXa.—Diagram of Lake Level regulation.

A brochure recently issued by the Department of Agriculture of the United States, prepared by Mr. ALMONT BARNES, is entitled "Keeping Goats for Profit." This is a reprint from the "Yearbook" of the Department for 1898. The subject is equally as important for the agriculturist and stock raiser in 1900, as when their attention was first called to the subject. The greatest amount of the profits of goat keeping is derived from the skins of the animal. Prior to 1864 there was so small a demand for goatskins in the United States that they were not separately classified for duty on importation. In 1898 the invoice valuation of the goatskins imported was \$15,776,601, which was an average of 24.3 cents per pound on 64,906,485 pounds. The average market price to consumers for home use was 39.3 cents per pound, or 62 per cent above the invoice valuation, or \$25,508,249. The number of goats which are returned for taxation in several of the States and Territories is 374,980, and in other States which do not tax these animals, or which make no distinction in their tax lists between sheep and goats, or which include them in the item "other stock," is estimated to bring the total up to 500,000.

The total number of Angora goats in the United States is estimated by a quoted authority to be 247,775, ranging from 50 each in several States to 75,000 in the State of Texas. But, whether the estimate of the number be too great or too small, the domestic supply is far short of the demand. If all the goats in the country were kept with the single object of supplying skins for market, which is not the case, they would fail to supply a small fraction of the present demand and at the same time remain at their present number. At 4 pounds to the skin, the slaughter of 16,226,621 goats would be required to yield the weight of the skins of these animals imported in 1898. In the course of his valuable report, Mr. BARNES points out what sections of the country are climatically suited for different varieties of goat, the available pasturage, the improvement of the lands upon which they browse, the supply and suitability of laborers, the objects of goat keeping, and the number of goats in the world.

A summary of the conclusions arrived at by the writer includes the following: That the United States requires at least \$25,000,000 worth of goatskins annually; that the market would be supplied by home production; that a greater part of present area of 265,000,000 acres of unimproved farm land is suitable for the maintenance of goats; that these lands are located principally where negro labor could be utilized; that the by-products—flesh of kids, milk, hair, etc.—could be made to more than cover the value of the goat products now imported, leaving the value of the skins as a net profit for the producers; that the

goatskins demanded year after year by manufacturers in the United States are furnished by countries which buy little from this country.

"Voyage entre Tocantines et Xingu, 3 Avril, 1898-3 Novembre, 1898" (Voyage between Tocantines and Xingu, April 3 to November 3, 1898), by HENRY COUDREAU, 78 illustrations and 15 maps. Paris, 1899. This is a report of a journey along the rivers flowing into the bay of Marajo through the extended labyrinth of streams in that vicinity, thence to the Amazon. This territory has heretofore been *terra incognita*. The most important geographical novelty discovered is that the principal river in this territory, the Anapu, does not correspond with that given in STEILERS'S map as Uanapu, but is identical with the Jacitara, the so-called southern tributary of that chain of bays which flows from north to south along the fifty-fourth meridian west to Paris. AZEVEDOSCH, the authority upon which STEILERS'S map is based, calls these the Bahia de Camoin, Cachnana, and Pracupy. The latter COUDREAU calls Bahia dos Botos. According to him these bayous are to be regarded as widenings of the Anapu, which then becomes narrower at about 1' 40° south latitude, flowing southeast through a side channel (Furo) which forms the northern boundary of the island of Pacajahy, at last entering into the bay of Portel northerly from the Pacaja. Its resources are the Carupuhy and Tuere. An important tributary of the Anapu is the Pracuru. The Pracupy flows into the Bahia dos Botos. The Uanapu on STEILERS'S map is identical with COUDREAU'S Pacaja, whose tributary Camaraipy is really the Pacaja of that map.

In all, fourteen rivers were explored, of which only two have heretofore been mentioned on the maps. Further, ten channels (Furos) were traveled over, two being entirely new, and six lakes were discovered. The territory is almost entirely covered by a virgin forest. At four different places perfect meadow land was found. Mr. COUDREAU does not consider the climatic dangers unsurmountable, and thinks European colonization desirable. He is sanguine upon this point. At present the settlements are scarce. The inhabitants follow the culture of rubber and cacao. Indians were found. The tribe of Penas who were there some thirty years ago seem now to be extinct. The illustrations in the book give a good idea of the scenery and vegetation.

The editor of the "Ceylon Observer and Tropical Agriculturist," Mr. J. FERGUSON, has issued a revised edition of his manual, entitled "All About Rubber and Gutta-Percha." The first compilation was prepared sixteen years ago, a second but enlarged edition appeared in 1887, and the present edition in 1899. In this the author has brought together all the available and latest information regarding rubber, utilizing especially the valuable circulars issued by the Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Ceylon. An appendix affords a large amount of varied reading from a scientific and practical point of view

on plants yielding india rubber and gutta-percha in all countries where they exist. Reports as to important experiments in coagulation and rubber preparation are also given, as well as interesting translations from French periodicals devoted to tropical agriculture.

Mr. FERGUSON's summary of the world's supply and consumption of rubber is contained in the following figures:

*Production.*—Pará rubber (Brazil, Peru), 45,000,000 pounds; Ceará rubber, etc. (Brazil), 9,400,000 pounds; Mangabeira rubber (Brazil), 6,500,000 pounds; Guiana product, 600,000 pounds; Bolivian, 3,000,000 pounds; other South American, 4,000,000 pounds; total South America, 68,500,000 pounds. The number of pounds from other countries was as follows: Central America and Mexico, 5,000,000; Java, Borneo, and Eastern Archipelago, 2,000,000; East and West Africa, 48,000,000; Madagascar and Mauritius, 1,000,000; India and Burma, 800,000; Ceylon, 15,000. Grand total, 125,315,000 pounds.

*Consumption.*—America (United States and Canada), 40,000,000 pounds; United Kingdom and dependencies (except Canada), 45,000,000 pounds; Continental Europe, 40,000,000 pounds; grand total, 125,000,000 pounds.

“Die Deutsche Kolonie Hansa in Südbrasilien” (The German Colony Hansa in Southern Brazil), by FRANZ GIESEBRECHT (second edition, HERMANN PÄTEL, Berlin, 1899). The author has been engaged in the investigation of matters concerning German colonies and the question of German emigration. He is of the opinion that German Africa can not be considered at all in this regard, excepting, perhaps, in the southwestern portion, and says that it is beyond question a necessity for Germany, in connection with her colonial policy, to also keep in view the question of emigration. There are not many countries in which German settlements may be established without loss to the mother country, and fewer still where the opening up, by means of German colonial material, will prove useful to Germany. The South American continent, according to Mr. GIESEBRECHT, presents the best opportunities for German emigrants; not all the countries, however, are to be thought of in this connection. Southern Brazil offers by far the best inducements, and on this account the author gives it undivided attention. In the relatively short time of fifteen years the German colonist may become firmly established and prosperous, and own a farm yielding a larger revenue than he and his family need for their existence. Only 100 acres are necessary. Four hundred thousand Germans have found a livelihood in Southern Brazil, and there is room for a further 100,000. The author lays stress upon the fact that the Germans have preserved their language and customs, which are handed down to their progeny; a fact which firmly attaches them to the mother country.

“Note sur les gisement d’or du Mexique” (Note upon the gold deposits of Mexico), by M. EZEKIEL ORDOÑEZ, Mexico, 1898. Published in Bull. No. 2—7

the "Memorias de la Sociedad Scientifica 'Autorio Alzate,' XI." The author presents a sketch to precede a more elaborate work which he is preparing, the subject being the production of gold in Mexico. The output of gold has largely increased during the last decade. In the fiscal year 1886-87, 418.63 kilos of gold were exported, while during the fiscal year 1896-97 it reached 10,409.53 kilos. The increase is due chiefly to the better working of the silver ore in which gold is found, relatively only a small amount being obtained from the special gold deposits. The number of the latter, however, has been augmented through new discoveries. Owing to the difficulties due to lack of means of communication they are as yet of small consequence, and only after these obstacles have been overcome will Mexico attain her deserved important position as a gold producer. The principal gold deposits are found on the Pacific slope in the States of Sonora, Sinaloa, Tepic, Jalisco, Durango, and in Lower California, as well as in the mountain chain which may be considered an extension of the Sierra Nevada.

The presence of gold in these mountains in Mexico make it probable that they are of the same age and formation as those of the Sierras. However, such enormous discoveries of gold as has been the case in the United States have not been made on the Mexican side. This is chiefly owing to the fact that the mountains of Mexico run directly to the sea, and on the whole west coast the most important condition for the existence of gold—a broad level along the coast—does not obtain.

"Under Three Flags in Cuba" is a record of the observations and experiences of Capt. GEORGE MUSGRAVE, who was sent to Cuba by an English newspaper as a war correspondent previous to the war between the United States and Spain, where he remained until the capture of Santiago. As the title suggests, Captain MUSGRAVE was, in turn, with Spanish, Cuban, and United States troops, and he writes very entertainingly of what he observed under the three régimes. He went to Cuba prejudiced in favor of Spain, but he quickly changed his mind. He began work as a correspondent among the Cubans, and explains much of their style of warfare. Later, while among the Spanish, he met and studied General WEYLER. These, naturally, are very interesting pages, as they contain one of the very few Anglo-Saxon estimates, based on personal acquaintance with that Spanish commander. Captain MUSGRAVE has much praise and some censure for the Cubans. As he saw a great deal of the campaign before Santiago he bestows great praise on the United States soldiers. Of their fearlessness in action and of the courage and nerve of the wounded men, to say nothing of the truly heroic efforts of the handful of physicians, nurses, and chaplains who struggled ceaselessly and patiently against fearful odds thrown against them by the general lack of preparedness, Mr. MUSGRAVE gives many vivid pictures.

"Die Insel Haiti" (The Island of Haiti), by L. GENTIL TIPPENHAUER (F. A. Brockhaus, Leipsic, 1893). This valuable book has recently been

obtained by the library of this Bureau. The author has long been known as an explorer of and writer upon Haiti, and especially of the geology of the island, of which he is a native. He explains that the object in publishing this book—and in the German language—is to present the conditions, and explain them fully and in an impartial manner, with the desire to awaken the interest of foreigners in this wonderful country.

The work is separated into three general divisions, which are again divided into parts, and these into chapters. In this way every detail is carefully recorded and indexed, and the data is most useful for ready reference. The history, oro-hydrographic, meteorological, and physical conditions, the fauna and flora, commerce and industry, are all treated succinctly. The people, their language, religion, social and political institutions, are subjected to a critical analysis by the author, whose endeavor has been to chronicle the situation as it exists to-day. The large volume of 693 pages is profusely illustrated, and is supplied with a number of geological charts and statistical tables, to all of which is added a complete bibliography from the year 1500 to date.

Issues of the "Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin" (Geographical Society, Berlin) recently added to the library of this Bureau, contain several interesting articles upon a number of the countries of the American continent. Among them a description of the journey of Dr. EDUARD SELER in Mexico (Vol. XXIII, 1896, No. 3), and of the journey of the same gentleman in Guatemala (Vol. XXIV, 1897, No. 7). Dr. CARL SAPPER has several letters upon investigations in Honduras and other countries of Central America (Vol. XXIV, 1897, No. 7, Vol. XXV, 1898, No. 5-6). Mr. WILHELM SIEVERS has a most important paper (Vol. XXXIII, 1898, No. 5) prepared by him from the notes left by the late RICHARD LUDWIG upon Santo Domingo. Mr. LUDWIG, who was an indefatigable explorer, died before he had opportunity to put the result of his work into form for publication. Mr. SIEVERS states that journeys of exploration in Santo Domingo are of such rarity that he feels that he has rendered a service in collating this data. A SCHOMBURK map of Central Haiti, upon which Mr. SIEVERS has indicated the routes traveled over by Mr. LUDWIG, forms part of the article.

A writer in "Ainslie's Magazine" says that the Great Lakes have become the main artery of the richest commercial blood of the United States. He asserts that one-third of the population of the country is dependent on these lakes for its export and import trade. These waterways are in touch with the richest and most prosperous agricultural territory of the Western Hemisphere, together with the most productive mines, and it is worthy of note that within a radius of 400 miles from the city of Cleveland one-half of the population of the United States is located. It is a fact well established, and necessarily must be so, that deep-water transportation is far below the cost of

transportation by rail. In fact, it is computed that the cost of water transportation by steam, when the voyage is of any considerable length, is about one-fourth the average cost of transportation by rail, while by sailboat it is only about one-eighth of the latter. In the year 1898 there passed through Sault Ste. Marie Canal not less than 21,234,664 tons of Canadian freight, valued at \$200,000,000, while United States vessels moved over 168,000,000 tons through the same waters during the same period. The total traffic through the "Soo" Canal for less than eight months is five times as great in the number of vessels and slightly less than twice as much in actual tonnage as passes through the Suez Canal during the entire year.

An elaborate treatise on the subject of the bubonic plague, a disease that is now giving the medical authorities of the United States in Hawaii much concern, as well as the authorities of the Central and South American Republics, has been prepared by Surgeon-General WYMAN, of the Marine-Hospital Service of the United States. This is probably the most complete study on the subject ever prepared for publication by a Government official, and represents the results of two years of research. Dr. WYMAN hopes to be able to prevent the plague from gaining entrance into the United States, but he says: "Should this misfortune occur, science has the aid of effective weapons to prevent the spread of the disease." The writer gives an interesting account of the plague from its origin, tells how it is spread, and what measures should be taken to prevent contagion. He calls attention to the fact that the epidemic is slowly but surely extending, and that for the first time in history it has invaded the Western Hemisphere. The information and warnings given by Dr. WYMAN will be of the greatest value to the public.

In the course of an article on the Twelfth Census of the United States, contributed to the "North American Review," Hon. WILLIAM R. MERRIAM, Director of the United States Census, says: "The census taken at the dawn of the twentieth century marks the greatest epoch in our national life. The age of iron has come to a climax with a force almost dynamic. The world has witnessed the golden age of Augustus, the silver age of Elizabeth, the era of great wars and of wonderful progress in art and science, but as the nineteenth century culminates behold the age of iron and steam and electricity, telegraphs, sewing machines, telephones, and automobiles—an age which is devoted to material development, to the accumulation of wealth, and to the upbuilding of vast enterprises, and which hails the advent of the uncrowned king of commerce, the consolidation of great corporate interests. High-water mark in our commercial and industrial life has been attained, and to that fact the vast enumeration to be taken in 1900 will add its testimony. The work of the Twelfth Census will mark the industrial growth of the nation and be another milepost in its marvelous history."

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued a leaflet (Circular No. 21) regarding "Yams in the West Indies," by DAVID G. FAIRCHILD, agricultural explorer. In January, 1899, collections of yams (*Discorea* spp.) were imported by the Department from Jamaica and Barbados for distribution mainly in Florida, where they have been tried by a number of experimenters during the past season. Several varieties of yams are already cultivated in the Southern States, but not so many nor so good as those grown in the West Indies. The several varieties of the latter are described and the conclusions deduced are that the West Indian yam is not a crop that will supplant the sweet potato, but the different varieties will form a welcome addition to sub-tropical agriculture in the United States and in the new insular dependencies. The finer varieties, possessing a characteristic flavor, undoubtedly will fill an important place in the Northern markets of the United States.

Under the caption "A Great Mexican State Capital" Mr. SYLVESTER BAXTER contributes an article to "Harper's Weekly" of January 27, 1900, descriptive of the city of Guadalajara. This municipality is spoken of as the metropolis of Western Mexico, or "La Reina del Occidente" (The Queen of the West), as the natives are wont to exclaim. The writer says that up to 1888, before the Mexican Central Railway reached the city, the isolation of Guadalajara from the outside world was almost as complete as if it were situated in mid ocean. The article in "Harper's," which is fully illustrated, tells of the various attractions and buildings of the city, the latter comparing favorably with those of almost any other capital in the world. Guadalajara is the most important educational center in Mexico outside of the national capital, there being schools of law, medicine, engineering, and fine arts, besides other technical and trade schools and institutions of learning for both sexes.

Mrs. HARRIET WRIGHT SHERRAT recently made a somewhat extended journey in Mexico, and, impressed with the novelty and variety which that Republic presents to the tourist, has put the results of her observations in a volume to which she has given the title "Mexican Vistas." Mrs. SHERRAT had the courage in many instances to travel out of the beaten lines of travel, and was amply rewarded with many quaint and curious aspects of Mexican life and character. Her itinerary also included most of the large towns along the line of the Mexican Central Railway. A most interesting chapter is devoted to the author's trip to the ancient Aztec ruins at Mitla. The work is about 300 pages and is illustrated by photographic reproductions. Rand, McNally & Co., of Chicago, are the publishers.

The Office of Experiment Stations of the United States Agricultural Department has issued a bulletin describing irrigation in the Rocky Mountain States. It is written by Mr. J. C. ULRICH, an irrigation

engineer of Denver, Colorado. He describes the agricultural conditions of the Rocky Mountain regions, covering more particularly the States of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. Beginning with the climate, resources, and appearance of this region, the bulletin describes how ditches are built, rights to water established, and the water divided into canals and ditches and applied to the land. The main purpose of this work is to instruct those to whom the subject is new, and thus enable them to avoid the costly mistakes which novices in irrigation farming are liable to make.

MR. AUSTIN FRYERS, in the January issue of "Pearson's Magazine," gives an interesting account of some marvelously successful experiments in increasing the produce of ears of wheat. It is shown that agricultural experiments continued through a period of close upon twenty years have resulted in producing cereals not only considerably larger in grain, but also in much more abundant ears than those with which ordinary agriculture is acquainted. As an instance of the thoroughness of the investigations, Mr. FRYERS cites the fact that to secure improved grades of wheat there were collected nearly 400 cultivated varieties, including 104 Greek, 65 Italian, 60 Indian, 45 American, 36 English, 26 French, 25 German, 15 Hungarian, and 12 Australian.

One of the most valuable publications issued by the Interior Department during the fiscal year 1898-99 was a wall map of the United States, prepared under the direction of the Commissioner of the General Land Office. In addition to other features usually characteristic of such maps, the several acquisitions of territory upon the Western Continent by the United States Government, as ascertained after an exhaustive investigation, are shown by clearly defined boundary lines. The Secretary of the Interior, in commenting upon this, says that a copy "might well find a place in every educational institution, and especially in every public school in the country." The maps attached to rollers, ready for immediate use, is sold by the Department at a very moderate price—80 cents per copy.

"Santiago Roth: Apuntes sobre la geología y la paleontología de los territorios del Rio Negro y Nuequen, diciembre de 1895 á junio de 1896" (Notes on the Geology and Paleontology of the Rio Negro and Neuquen Territories, December, 1895, to June, 1896). Published in the "Revista del Museo de la Plata," 1898. The author visited the territories of Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut, and Santa Cruz in 1895-96, ascending the river Carmen de Patagonas from the mouth of the Rio Negro to the lake region south of the Junin de los Andes. This expedition was rich in topographical and geological results. A map and a number of excellent photographs vividly illustrate the character of the country.

Señor WASHINGTON BERMÚDEZ, of Montevideo, Uruguay, has compiled a dictionary of Argentinisms which he intends offering for sale



to the Government of the Argentine Republic. It is a well-known fact that nearly all of the Spanish-American Republics have idioms, localisms, colloquialisms, etc., which render the work of the translator extremely difficult in the absence of any one publication containing them all, and the appearance of works of this character is always hailed with delight by those whose inclinations or employment lead them to converting one language into another. It is to be hoped that in case the Argentine Government does not purchase Señor BERMÚDEZ'S work that he will find a publisher to place it upon the market.

Mr. WILLIAM BULFIN, the editor of the "Southern Cross," whose sketches of Argentine life, written over the signature "Che Buono," have become very well known in Buenos Ayres within the past ten years, has in preparation a book of similar sketches and folk lore. Many of these have never before been published, and are looked for with interest. The book will be one of the volumes of the "Over-Seas Library," published by Mr. Fisher Unwin, in London.

"Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Lima," No. 3 (Bulletin of the Geographical Society of Lima, 1898), contains information by ANTONIO RAIMONDIS and much important and useful geographical data in regard to the country; further, a monograph by NEMESIO A. RAEZ, touching the practical conditions, and chapters upon the flora, fauna, and minerals. There is also a compilation on the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in Peru, from the Conquest to 1806, to be completed in a later publication. Valuable climatological observations in Callao from October to December, 1898, and weather reports for the year are also given.

"Rapport préliminaire sur une expédition géologique dans la région andine située entre Las Lajas, Argentine, et Curacautin, Chile." (Preliminary Report of a Geological Expedition in the Andean Region between Las Lajas, Argentine, and Curacautin, Chile), by C. BURCKHARDT. Published in the Revista del Museo de la Plata, IX, 1898. The author accomplished a very tedious but very successful expedition along the territory between Chile and the Argentine Republic. Complete topographical and geological investigations were made, beginning in the western portion of the mountain chain of Vaca Muerta and the northern of Las Lajas. The result of this journey has been the work of Mr. BURCKHARDT, which is of the highest scientific value. A number of maps and good illustrations accompany the text.

"Notice sur le territoire compris entre Pisagua et Antofagasta, avec la région des hauts plateaux Boliviens" (Notes of the territory comprised between Pisagua and Antofagasta, together with the region of the high plateaus of Bolivia), by LATRILLE ROCH (Bulletin of the Geographical Society of Paris, 1899, 1 map, 1:½ M). The map of the territory between Pisagua and Antofagasta is rich in detail, and a supple-

mentary one (1:750,000) shows the Pisagua-Iquique Railroad, and a second one (1:4,000,000) is a survey of Bolivia between the volcano of Ollagua, Potosi, and Tupiza. The text treats of these maps, and especially of the water sources of the territory covered by them.

“Rio Grande do Sul,” by GUSTAV KÖNIGSWALD (D. Reimer, Berlin, 1898). The author of this work resided twelve years in Brazil, and during this period traveled extensively throughout the country. His present effort is the result of careful study and is by all means a valuable addition to the literature upon the subject. The book treats of the position and boundaries of the State, its soil, minerals, waters, climate, plants, and animals. In regard to the latter the scientific as well as the local designation is given. Chapters are devoted to the people, agriculture, and historical and statistical data, as well as to commerce, transportation, government, and literature.

The exportation of California fruit to Germany will be appreciably promoted by the prize essay written by Professor KRÜGER on the “American Insect Pests in Germany.” He says in effect that hitherto no insect of any importance or danger has ever been introduced into his country from America. He adds that this does not justify any such panic over the “San José scale” as was foolishly excited by the Colorado potato beetle. He believes that this more recent alarm is as groundless as the other proved to be, owing to the difference in the climates of the two countries.

Dr. EDUARD SELER, who was recently appointed Professor of American Ethnology and Archæology at the University of Berlin, Germany, is one of the most prominent authorities on such studies in that country. He made his chief reputation in his investigations of “Old Mexican Life” in the States of Puebla, Oaxaca, and Chiapas. In 1893 the Academy of Science awarded him the LOUBAT prize for his work entitled “Aztec Hieroglyphics of VON HUMBOLDT” in the Royal Library of Berlin. Dr. SELER has also published valuable works on the life of the ancient Peruvians.

“Collier’s Weekly” for January 13 contains an interesting discussion by Hon. W. P. HEPBURN, Member of Congress from Iowa, and Rear-Admiral ENDICOTT on one of the most important questions to be dealt with by the United States Congress—the construction of the Panama or of the Nicaragua Canal. The illustrations which accompany the articles show the method of excavating which was pursued by the French Panama Canal Company; also the route of the proposed Nicaraguan waterway.

A German monograph, recently published, draws attention to the fact that the Philippine Islands are adapted to the production of gutta-percha trees. This is important, as the trees of Sumatra and Borneo,

from which the supply has hitherto been drawn, are almost exhausted, and as the demand for gutta-percha is steadily increasing for submarine cables, for the isolating covering of electrical wires, and for the manufacture of golf balls, for which no other material seems so well adapted.

"Report on the navigability of the eastern rivers of Peru," by MELITON CARVAJAL, Lima, Peter Lira, 1896. This interesting report, with map, embraces the territory from the equator to the  $14^{\circ}$  south latitude, from the Pacific coast to the mouth of the Madeira in the Amazon. As eastern boundary of Peru the river Madidi is given. All the more important streams are shown on the map and the heads of navigation are marked by means of red anchors.

"Meine Reise nach den deutschen Kolonien in Rio Grande do Sul" (My Journey to the German Colonies in Rio Grande do Sul), by HERMAN MEYER (Leipzig, Carl Meyer's Graphisches Institut, 1899). The book is a well-written description of the Colonial district of Rio Grande do Sul. The information which the author gives in regard to railroads built and projected is particularly interesting.

Peruvian Meteorology, 1888-1890, by SOLON J. BAILEY. (Annual of the Astronomical Observatory of Harvard College, Cambridge, 1899.) Professor BAILEY established a meteorological station on the volcano of Arequipa in 1893, and the results of his observations are described by him in this paper.

A map of the Republic of Colombia, by L. ROBERLIN (A. Roger and F. Chernoviez, Paris, 1899). This map is drawn on the scale of 1:2,000,000, with a plan of the city of Bogotá, scale 1:30,000, with a collection of statistical data.

With the issue of December 9, 1899, "The Review of the River Plate," an English journal published in Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, entered on the ninth year of its existence.

A new fortnightly review of sociology, science, and letters has recently appeared in the city of Buenos Ayres, under the direction of Señor SANTIAGO LOCASCIO.

"The "Nuova Antologia" of Rome is publishing an interesting series of articles on the Argentine Republic, by Señor PEDRO BARBERA.

## LIBRARY ACCESSIONS DURING JANUARY, 1900.

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## PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS PERMANENTLY FILED IN THE LIBRARY.

Persons interested in the commercial and general news of foreign countries will find the following among the official and periodical publications on the permanent files in the Library of the Bureau of the American Republics:

- American Review of Reviews. New York. Monthly.
- Anales del Departamento de Ganadería y Agricultura. Montevideo. Monthly.
- Anglo (The) American Magazine. New York and London. Monthly.
- Argentinisches Wochenblatt. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.
- Board of Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.
- Boletín de Agricultura, Minería é Industrias. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- Boletín Postal de la Administración General de Correos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Lima. Lima, Peru.
- Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Monthly.
- Boletín Demográfico Argentino. Buenos Ayres. Monthly.
- Boletín del Instituto Científico y Literario. Toluca, Mexico.
- Boletín de la Red Meteorológica y Revista Científica. Toluca, Mexico.
- Boletín Telegráfico. City of Mexico, Mexico.
- Bollettino del Ministro degli Affari Esteri. Rome, Italy.
- British Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.
- Bulletin of American Geographical Society. New York City.
- Bulletin of the Commercial Museum. Brussels, Belgium. Weekly.
- Bulletin of the Free Museum of Science and Arts. Philadelphia. Quarterly.
- Century Magazine. New York City. Monthly.
- Chilean Times. Santiago de Chile. Semiweekly.
- Coal Trade Journal. New York City. Weekly.
- Deutsche Kolonialzeitung. Berlin. Weekly.
- Diario Oficial. Bogotá, Colombia. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. Managua, Nicaragua. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. City of Mexico. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. (Laws.) City of Mexico. Daily.
- Diario Oficial de la Republica de Chile. Santiago. Daily.
- Diario del Salvador. San Salvador, Salvador. Daily.
- Diplomatic and Consular Reports. London, England.
- El Agricultor Mexicano. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- El Comercio. La Paz, Bolivia.
- El Comercio. Lima, Peru.
- El Comercio. Managua, Nicaragua. Daily.
- El Correo Nacional. Bogotá, Colombia.
- El Economista. Lima, Peru. Weekly.
- El Economista Mexicano. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.
- El Estado de Colima. Colima, Mexico. Weekly.
- El Guatemalteco. Guatemala, Guatemala. Weekly.
- El Mensajero. Santo Domingo. Three times a month.
- El Progreso de México. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.
- El Republicano. Aguascalientes, Mexico. Weekly.
- El Siglo. Montevideo, Uruguay. Daily.
- Export Implement Age. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Monthly.

- Feilden's Magazine. London, England. Monthly.  
 Field Columbian Museum Publications. Chicago, Illinois.  
 Freir's Colonial and Foreign Register. London. Quarterly.  
 Gaceta Municipal. Guayaquil, Ecuador. Weekly.  
 Gaceta Oficial. Caracas, Venezuela. Daily.  
 Gaceta Oficial. Santo Domingo. Weekly.  
 Geographical Journal. London, England. Monthly.  
 Handel's Kammer zur Hanover. Hanover, Germany.  
 Japan-American Commercial Journal. Tokio, Japan. Monthly.  
 Jornal do Commercio. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Daily.  
 Journal of the Board of Agriculture. London, England. Quarterly.  
 La Escuela Cubana. Habana, Cuba. Weekly.  
 La Enseñanza. Asunción, Paraguay. Semimonthly.  
 La Gaceta. (Official.) Costa Rica. Daily.  
 La Gaceta. Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Weekly.  
 La Gaceta Comercial. City of Mexico, Mexico. Daily.  
 La Patria. León, Nicaragua.  
 La Plata Post. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.  
 La Plata Zeitung. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.  
 La Producción Argentina. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.  
 La Producción Nacional. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Semimonthly.  
 Lavoura (A). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.  
 Le Commerce Extérieur Argentin. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.  
 Le Nouveau Monde. Paris, France. Weekly.  
 Modern Machinery. Chicago, Illinois. Monthly.  
 Modern Mexico. St. Louis, Missouri, and City of Mexico, Mexico. Monthly.  
 Moniteur Officiel. Paris, France. Weekly.  
 Novedades (Las). New York City. Weekly.  
 Pan-American Magazine. Buffalo, New York. Monthly.  
 Petermann's Mitteilungen. Gotha, Germany. Monthly.  
 Resumen de la Importación y de la Exportación. City of Mexico, Mexico. Monthly.  
 Revista Brasileira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.  
 Revista de la Instrucción Pública de Colombia. Bogotá, Colombia. Monthly.  
 Revista Económica y Financiera. La Paz, Bolivia. Monthly.  
 Revista del Faro. Habana, Cuba. Quarterly.  
 Revista del Instituto Paraguayo. Asunción, Paraguay. Monthly.  
 Revista Maritima Brasileira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.  
 Revue du Commerce Extérieur. Paris. Semimonthly.  
 Revue Politique et Parlementaire. Paris. Monthly.  
 Semana Mercantil. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.  
 Südamerikanische Rundschau. Berlin, Germany. Monthly.  
 Tableaux Mensuels de Statistique Municipale de la Ville de Paris. Paris. Monthly.  
 Tenders and Contracts. London, England.  
 Thonindustrie Zeitung. Berlin, Germany.  
 Times (The). London, England. Daily.  
 Trade and Navigation Reports. (Official.) London. Monthly.  
 United States Consular Reports. Daily and monthly.  
 Venezuelan Herald. Caracas, Venezuela.

#### ADDITIONS TO LIST OF PERMANENT FILES DURING JANUARY.

- Rapports Commerciaux. Paris, France.  
 Revue générale des Sciences. Paris, France. Semimonthly.  
 Revista de Ciencias. Lima, Peru.



# BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

## OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

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VOL. VIII.

FEBRERO, 1900.

No. 2.

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### COMERCIO EXTERIOR DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EN 1899.

El comercio exterior de los Estados Unidos durante el año civil de 1899 ascendió á \$2,074,345,242, y de esta enorme suma más de las tres quintas partes corresponden á la exportación y menos de dos quintas á la importación.

Las cifras exactas publicadas por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda son las siguientes: importaciones, \$798,845,571; exportaciones, \$1,275,499,671; exceso de la exportación sobre la importación, \$476,654,100. El exceso de la exportación fué mayor que en cualquiera de los años anteriores, fuera de 1898, cuando subió á \$620,581,818. De los artículos exportados las manufacturas aparecen en mayor proporción que en cualquier otro año, mientras que de los objetos importados los materiales crudos para fábricas están en mayor proporción que antes. De las exportaciones exclusivamente de productos nacionales, más de 30 por ciento se compuso de artículos manufacturados, contra 25 por ciento en 1898, 26 por ciento en el año económico de 1897, 23 por ciento en 1895, 20 por ciento en 1885, 16 por ciento en 1879 y 12 por ciento en 1860. De las importaciones, 33 por ciento fué de artículos en estado crudo para usarse en las diversas industrias, contra 32 por ciento en 1898, 26 por ciento en 1895, 24 por ciento en 1892, 23 por ciento en 1889 y 20 por ciento en 1885.

Los productos agrícolas constituyeron como 62½ por ciento de la exportación, contra 69 por ciento en 1898, 72 por ciento en 1894, 74 por ciento en 1884 y 83 por ciento en 1880. Los productos clasificados con este título: "Artículos de alimentación y animales vivos," formaron

28.75 por ciento de las importaciones, contra 29.58 por ciento en 1898, 30 por ciento en 1896, 31 por ciento en 1886 y 34 por ciento en 1884.

Un estudio de las importaciones y exportaciones en 1899, comparadas con las de años anteriores, ofrece algunos puntos de importancia. De 1869 á 1899 las importaciones se duplicaron y las exportaciones se cuadruplicaron. Las importaciones en 1869 fueron por valor de \$438, 455,984 y las exportaciones ascendieron á \$337,375,988, lo cual muestra que las importaciones excedieron á las exportaciones en \$101,079,906, mientras que en 1899 estas últimas excedieron á las primeras en la cantidad de \$476,654,100. La proporción relativa entre los artículos que pagaron derechos y los que entraron libres difiere notablemente en los años de 1869 y 1899. En el primero solamente se admitieron libres de derecho artículos por valor de \$21,775,643, mientras que en el segundo los efectos que no pagaron derechos representaron la suma de \$350,813,954.

La exportación de mercancías extranjeras se reduce cada año en comparación con la exportación del país, lo cual se debe al aumento rápido de la exportación de productos nacionales. El valor de las mercancías extranjeras exportadas en 1899 fué casi dos veces mayor que en 1869, pero el de las exportaciones de artículos nacionales en 1899 fué cuatro veces mayor que en 1869.

Las importaciones en 1899 fueron clasificadas como sigue:

Importaciones.	Libres de derecho.	Gravadas con derechos.	Total.
Artículos de alimentación y animales .....	\$96, 289, 513	\$133, 681, 872	\$229, 971, 385
Artículos en estado crudo para uso en las industrias nacionales.....	209, 879, 608	57, 614, 351	267, 493, 959
Artículos en todo ó parcialmente manufacturados para ser usados como materiales en las manufacturas y artes mecánicas.....	27, 362, 123	48, 013, 882	75, 376, 905
Artículos manufacturados listos para el consumo .....	10, 660, 390	107, 679, 466	118, 339, 856
Artículos de lujo.....	6, 622, 320	101, 042, 046	107, 664, 366
Total.....	350, 813, 954	448, 031, 617	798, 845, 571

La cantidad total de los derechos recaudados fué de \$224,077,131, contra \$182,810,559 en 1898.

Las exportaciones fueron como sigue:

Exportaciones.	Valor.	Por ciento.
Nacionales:		
Productos agrícolas.....	\$782, 105, 048	62.42
Productos de las fábricas.....	380, 787, 891	30.39
Productos de las minas.....	33, 279, 187	2.66
Productos de los bosques.....	47, 562, 121	3.80
Productos de las pesquerías.....	5, 637, 077	.45
Productos misceláneos.....	3, 532, 663	.28
Total .....	1, 233, 558, 140	100
Extranjeras:		
Libres de derecho.....	9, 233, 468	42.26
Gravadas con derechos.....	13, 047, 216	57.74
Total .....	22, 595, 684	100
Gran total .....	1, 275, 499, 671	.....

Las importaciones y exportaciones, divididas en grandes secciones, fueron como sigue en los años de 1899 y 1898:

	1899.	1898.
IMPORTACIONES.		
Europa.....	\$402,507,267	\$324,726,482
América del Norte.....	123,348,804	97,830,811
América del Sur.....	91,728,892	83,075,415
Asia.....	136,863,919	94,310,501
Oceanía.....	32,656,083	26,883,893
África.....	11,740,636	8,137,346
EXPORTACIONES.		
Europa.....	959,234,520	981,230,370
América del Norte.....	168,854,567	149,164,257
América del Sur.....	37,421,700	35,105,408
Asia.....	53,843,554	46,956,598
Oceanía.....	37,542,936	24,981,163
África.....	18,602,394	18,111,470

El valor total de las importaciones de los varios países de la América latina y de las exportaciones á aquellas repúblicas en 1898, en comparación con el año anterior, fué como sigue:

	1899.	1898.
IMPORTACIONES.		
México.....	\$24,625,000	\$19,650,099
Haiti.....	862,051	839,753
Santo Domingo.....	3,367,958	2,382,170
Costa Rica.....	3,549,468	3,225,401
Guatemala.....	2,197,641	1,598,296
Honduras.....	880,287	923,858
Nicaragua.....	1,594,719	1,179,993
Salvador.....	1,082,964	748,571
República Argentina.....	5,997,373	5,569,842
Brasil.....	59,580,868	53,374,743
Chile.....	5,232,702	3,064,972
Colombia.....	5,462,432	4,810,465
Ecuador.....	1,098,081	1,064,567
Paraguay.....	160	.....
Perú.....	2,096,575	1,121,024
Uruguay.....	1,512,605	1,487,503
Venezuela.....	5,669,925	6,609,919
Total.....	124,810,809	107,651,076
EXPORTACIONES.		
México.....	29,309,802	23,113,850
Haiti.....	2,357,562	2,604,307
Santo Domingo.....	1,118,933	1,089,193
Costa Rica.....	1,282,797	1,325,878
Guatemala.....	843,565	1,177,229
Honduras.....	1,038,904	784,020
Nicaragua.....	1,486,352	1,100,767
Salvador.....	634,591	698,146
República Argentina.....	11,325,257	8,012,615
Bolivia.....	27,448	36,008
Brasil.....	11,453,997	13,210,959
Chile.....	2,240,104	2,262,375
Colombia.....	2,985,801	2,923,404
Ecuador.....	1,179,619	819,063
Paraguay.....	11,159	.....
Perú.....	1,395,046	1,383,880
Uruguay.....	1,702,009	1,392,774
Venezuela.....	2,641,390	2,736,726
Total.....	73,034,336	64,671,194

## TRÁFICO DE LA GRAN BRETAÑA CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

La publicación inglesa conocida con el nombre de "Monthly Accounts of Trade and Navigation" contiene informes preliminares relativos al comercio de la Gran Bretaña durante el año de 1899. Dicha publicación no dice cosa alguna acerca de las importaciones de México, aunque debe de haber habido algunas. En cuanto á las exportaciones del Reino Unido para aquel país, fueron como sigue:

Artículos.	1899.	1898.
Géneros de algodón en pieza:		
No blanqueados .....	\$10, 813. 36	\$11, 012. 89
Blanqueados .....	918, 264. 75	922, 883. 06
Estampados .....	714, 154. 00	595, 737. 46
Teñidos .....	496, 334. 34	412, 761. 93
Géneros de lino en pieza .....	198, 076. 28	200, 553. 81
Hierro para ferrocarriles .....	460, 906. 22	207, 103. 64
Hierro galvanizado .....	377, 046. 69	257, 666. 58
Total .....	3, 175, 595. 64	2, 607, 519. 37

Las importaciones de la América Central no se especifican, y solamente se da el valor de un artículo, el café, que en 1899 ascendió á la suma de \$2,519,598.28, contra \$5,307,278 en 1898. Las exportaciones á las repúblicas centroamericanas fueron las siguientes:

Artículos.	1899.	1898.
Géneros de algodón:		
No blanqueados .....	\$369, 907. 53	\$333, 885. 70
Blanqueados .....	406, 907. 53	322, 454. 29
Estampados .....	516, 987. 76	301, 727. 87
Teñidos .....	244, 741. 15	178, 381. 56
Hierro galvanizado en hojas .....	88, 005. 79	67, 396. 16
Total .....	1, 626, 549. 76	1, 203, 845. 58

Las importaciones á la América del Sur y las exportaciones de aquellos países, calculadas en moneda de los Estados Unidos, fueron las siguientes:

Artículos.	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTACIONES.</b>		
Países no especificados .....	\$3, 935, 368. 22	\$4, 510, 685. 85
República Argentina .....	46, 296, 282. 68	31, 905, 820. 31
Brasil .....	1, 645, 509. 91	2, 443, 782. 11
Chile .....	7, 201, 920. 89	6, 231, 416. 99
Perú .....	1, 918, 398. 63	3, 395, 722. 04
Total .....	60, 997, 490. 33	48, 487, 427. 30
<b>EXPORTACIONES.</b>		
Países no especificados .....	5, 377, 606. 53	4, 328, 396. 50
República Argentina .....	15, 833, 471. 98	14, 277, 152. 78
Brasil .....	14, 824, 695. 67	18, 440, 906. 03
Chile .....	5, 198, 582. 65	4, 178, 045. 71
Colombia .....	1, 850, 155. 70	2, 029, 812. 29
Perú .....	2, 299, 333. 67	2, 197, 536. 22
Uruguay .....	3, 111, 111. 46	3, 020, 305. 53
Venezuela .....	1, 530, 621. 31	1, 317, 098. 77
Total .....	50, 030, 578. 97	49, 789, 253. 83

Tomando cada país por separado, las cifras son las que aparecen en las tablas que vienen á continuación, pero no se dan las importaciones de varias de las repúblicas.

## REPUBLICA ARGENTINA.

Artículos.	1899.	1898.
IMPORTACIONES.		
Ganado vacuno.....	\$6, 777, 083. 03	\$6, 575, 926. 26
Carneros y corderos.....	2, 912, 288. 79	3, 101, 848. 70
Carnero fresco.....	7, 251, 892. 84	6, 608, 346. 88
Sebo y estearina.....	747, 197. 54	868, 485. 32
Trigo.....	17, 626, 769. 59	8, 535, 373. 82
Maíz.....	7, 782, 441. 56	3, 507, 953. 26
Líenza.....	2, 983, 962. 61	2, 158, 618. 81
Cueros salados <i>a</i> .....	214, 616. 72	549, 267. 26
Total.....	46, 296, 282. 68	31, 905, 820. 31
EXPORTACIONES.		
Géneros de algodón en piezas:		
No blanqueados.....	740, 326. 05	895, 231. 61
Blanqueados.....	1, 898, 577. 38	2, 082, 798. 74
Estampados.....	2, 233, 820. 83	1, 880, 177. 14
Teñidos.....	1, 786, 574. 88	1, 343, 426. 52
Yute.....	1, 641, 037. 33	1, 005, 501. 63
Lino.....	249, 996. 97	215, 581. 09
Tejidos de lana.....	720, 251. 73	749, 621. 06
Tejidos de estambre.....	1, 492, 156. 50	1, 210, 566. 21
Alfombras.....	271, 010. 52	206, 573. 19
Ferretería.....	162, 687. 10	159, 319. 48
Cuchillería.....	83, 295. 01	78, 160. 86
Hierro para ferrocarriles.....	612, 193. 07	1, 269, 781. 78
Hierro galvanizado en hojas.....	1, 378, 708. 65	1, 086, 718. 65
Otras clases de hierro.....	1, 941, 543. 71	1, 540, 091. 82
Planchas y hojas de estaño.....	226, 881. 10	241, 164. 27
Cemento.....	143, 459. 55	151, 791. 00
Porcelana y loza común.....	225, 951. 60	159, 747. 73
Total.....	15, 838, 471. 98	14, 277, 152. 78

*a* Incluyendo el valor de los que fueron importados del Uruguay.

El número de *bushels* de trigo, de 60 libras cada uno, importados de la República Argentina en 1899 fué de 18,947,167, contra 6,639,000 *bushels* en 1898 y 1,555,167 *bushels* en 1897.

Las importaciones del Brasil y las exportaciones á aquel país fueron las que aparecen en las siguientes tablas:

Artículos.	1899.	1898.
IMPORTACIONES.		
Azúcar sin refinar.....	\$310, 721. 16	\$1, 021, 147. 43
Café.....	706, 469. 81	828, 156. 64
Algodón en rama.....	472, 517. 68	476, 392. 42
Cueros salados.....	155, 791. 26	118, 085. 62
Total.....	1, 645, 509. 91	2, 443, 782. 11
EXPORTACIONES.		
Carbón de piedra, cok, etc.....	3, 016, 801. 75	2, 952, 500. 67
Géneros de algodón:		
No blanqueados.....	254, 127. 72	398, 804. 81
Blanqueados.....	1, 481, 917. 38	2, 317, 896. 89
Estampados.....	2, 930, 036. 92	4, 667, 611. 01
Teñidos.....	1, 948, 011. 29	2, 118, 294. 72
Géneros de yute en piezas.....	112, 323. 69	344, 840. 19
Hilaza de yute.....	1, 030, 505. 71	1, 074, 469. 67
Géneros de lino en piezas.....	341, 370. 38	380, 133. 58
Tejidos de lana.....	384, 847. 69	473, 588. 31
Tejidos de estambre.....	594, 102. 32	681, 305. 13

Artículos.	1899.	1898.
EXPORTACIONES—continued.		
Efectos de cobre .....	\$249,724.45	\$256,852.80
Ferretería .....	170,736.29	148,014.90
Cuchillería .....	200,100.75	182,162.83
Hierro para ferrocarriles .....	454,462.97	693,140.46
Hierro galvanizado en hojas .....	227,552.20	241,139.94
Artículos de acero .....	169,067.08	206,762.99
Planchas y hojas de estaño .....	347,828.22	312,117.84
Cuero y calzado .....	239,212.81	355,638.96
Cemento .....	166,210.44	141,576.22
Loza común y porcelana .....	204,321.05	283,142.70
Aceite de semillas .....	291,444.56	210,101.41
Total .....	14,824,695.67	18,440,906.03

Lo que se importó de Chile y lo que se exportó para aquella república se verá en las siguientes tablas:

Artículos.	1899.	1898.
IMPORTACIONES.		
Trigo .....	\$413,321.58	\$1,607,171.36
Mineral de cobre .....	2,013,392.71	974,988.68
Régulo y precipitado de cobre .....	790,553.19	594,642.50
Cobre sin labrar y parcialmente labrado .....	3,984,663.41	3,054,614.45
Total .....	7,201,930.89	6,231,416.99
EXPORTACIONES.		
Géneros de algodón en piezas:		
No blanqueados .....	435,585.82	332,016.96
Blanqueados .....	884,447.44	843,875.43
Estampados .....	831,718.92	576,412.59
Teñidos .....	834,560.95	505,264.36
Tejidos de lana .....	460,200.57	400,259.89
Tejidos de estambre .....	500,524.39	301,080.62
Alfombras .....	127,818.62	89,436.54
Ferretería .....	36,617.97	49,287.91
Cuchillería .....	34,839.27	32,050.77
Hierro para ferrocarriles .....	256,245.56	29,753.78
Hierro galvanizado .....	272,241.74	264,182.82
Otras manufacturas de hierro .....	523,781.40	454,424.04
Total .....	5,198,582.65	4,178,045.71

Bajo el encabezamiento de Abonos, la publicación atrás citada da la importación de salitre en 1899, la cual ascendió á 140,851 toneladas, contra 130,327 en 1898. El valor de este producto en los dos años mencionados fué, respectivamente, de \$5,206,040.57 y de \$4,734,136.07. Si todas las importaciones de salitre provinieron de Chile, como probablemente sucedió, estas cantidades deben agregarse á los totales correspondientes á los años en referencia.

Lo que se exportó para Colombia fué como sigue:

Artículos.	1899.	1898.
Géneros de algodón en piezas:		
No blanqueados .....	\$130,504.93	\$149,902.80
Blanqueados .....	596,462.57	620,916.74
Estampados .....	679,733.25	764,984.60
Teñidos .....	329,145.73	349,473.10
Géneros de lino en piezas .....	114,309.22	144,535.05
Total .....	1,850,155.70	2,029,812.29

En los cuadros siguientes se ven las cantidades importadas del Perú y las que fueron exportadas á aquel país:

Artículos.	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTACIONES.</b>		
Azúcar sin refinar .....	\$909,256.86	\$2,496,874.62
Lana de alpaca, de vicuña y de llama .....	1,009,141.77	898,847.42
Total .....	1,918,398.63	3,395,722.04
<b>EXPORTACIONES.</b>		
Géneros de algodón en piezas:		
No blanqueados .....	146,734.71	238,025.38
Blanqueados .....	509,357.09	510,286.59
Estampados .....	641,102.98	536,497.56
Teñidos .....	387,042.48	372,496.51
Tejidos de lana .....	319,403.00	253,009.35
Tejidos de estambre .....	167,052.35	164,969.48
Hierro y acero para ferrocarriles .....	21,242.27	21,106.00
Otras manufacturas de hierro .....	107,398.79	101,145.35
Total .....	2,299,333.67	2,197,536.22

Las exportaciones de la Gran Bretaña al Uruguay fueron las siguientes:

Artículos.	1899.	1898.
Géneros de algodón en piezas:		
No blanqueados .....	\$234,752.03	\$317,315.27
Blanqueados .....	615,884.77	626,975.53
Estampados .....	727,867.81	654,471.25
Teñidos .....	572,971.98	582,218.33
Tejidos de lana .....	196,314.61	220,282.12
Tejidos de estambre .....	420,942.52	334,942.52
Hierro para ferrocarriles .....	29,880.31	35,384.32
Hierro galvanizado .....	214,812.18	179,719.85
Hierro en barras .....	97,685.25	69,877.97
Total .....	3,111,111.46	3,020,305.53

En la siguiente tabla se dan las exportaciones para Venezuela:

Artículos.	1899.	1898.
Géneros de algodón en piezas:		
No blanqueados .....	\$72,345.39	\$79,703.54
Blanqueados .....	560,226.61	524,681.70
Estampados .....	551,934.10	520,525.71
Teñidos .....	346,115.21	192,187.82
Total .....	1,530,621.31	1,317,098.77

## LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS COMO PAÍS PRODUCTOR DE CARBÓN.

Parece que ya las naciones de Europa miran á los Estados Unidos como el país que en lo futuro les suplirá el carbón que van á necesitar. Por muchos años Inglaterra ha tenido el monopolio de este artículo y ha provisto de él á las naciones que no lo producen. Últimamente, sin

embargo, la Inglaterra no solamente no ha podido proveer de carbón al continente, sino que apenas ha producido lo necesario para su propio consumo. Informes recibidos de fuentes fidedignas prueban que el carbón se vuelve cada día más escaso y, por consiguiente, más caro. Esto último se ha visto aun en los Estados Unidos, donde las minas de carbón parecen inagotables.

En una comunicación que el Cónsul-General de la Gran Bretaña en Hamburgo dirigió á su Gobierno, relativa á la importación de carbón en aquel puerto, se expresa así:

“Se ha llamado la atención de los importadores de este artículo en Alemania y en otras partes á la posibilidad de introducir carbón de los Estados Unidos. Se asegura que considerables cantidades de carbón americano se envían anualmente á algunos puertos del Mediterráneo, donde antes no se introducía más que carbón de Gales y Newcastle.”

Hace poco M. BRETON, Diputado del Departamento de Cher, introdujo en la Cámara de Diputados de Francia un proyecto de ley proponiendo la suspensión temporal de los derechos de aduana sobre el carbón, porque los industriales franceses sufrían grave perjuicio á causa del elevado precio de este combustible.

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## MERCADO PARA LOS PRODUCTOS AMERICANOS.

Dice el periódico “Leslie’s Weekly” que en ninguna parte del mundo se conocen tan bien como en China los principios que sirven de base á las operaciones bancarias. Los chinos fueron los primeros que acuñaron moneda, y desde hace largo tiempo resolvieron el problema del papel moneda. El comercio del interior de la China se ha desarrollado mucho y, sin embargo, este país, que es el más grande del mundo, no cuenta con los medios modernos de transporte. Su inmenso tráfico se hace todavía de la manera más primitiva, esto es, por medio de camellos y de mulas que se usan como bestias de carga.

Aquel inmenso imperio ha menester de medios de transporte, y esto significa la construcción del mayor sistema de ferrocarriles que el mundo ha visto jamás. Con una población de setenta millones de habitantes, ó algo más, los Estados Unidos mantienen 186,000 millas de ferrocarril, ó sea un promedio de 26 millas por cada diez mil habitantes. En la misma proporción la China necesitaría 1,000,000 millas de ferrocarril. Los Estados Unidos han empleado como cien años para construir su actual sistema ferrocarrilero. Si este país comenzara ahora á construir las vías férreas que la China necesita, de acuerdo con su población y con su tráfico, tendría un mercado para toda su producción de hierro y acero, carros y locomotoras durante doscientos años. Y no es esto todo. La China, á semejanza de los otros países donde ha habido por siglos gran acumulación de habitantes, carece de árboles y sus bosques casi han desaparecido por completo. La construcción de los ferrocarriles chinos ofrecería un gran mercado para durmientes, pilotes y otra clase de



objetos de madera, que los Estados del Pacífico podrían suplir. Para llevar esta inmensa cantidad de carga habría necesidad de una enorme flota en el Pacífico, lo cual daría extraordinario incremento á la marina mercante de los Estados Unidos.

En la construcción de los ferrocarriles de los Estados Unidos se han gastado más de \$12,000,000,000. En los de China habría que gastar \$25,000,000,000. Y la construcción de este gigantesco sistema de vías férreas tiene que ser una empresa americana. Ninguna otra nación puede ofrecer á China material de ferrocarril tan barato y tan bueno como pueden ofrecérselo los Estados Unidos, y los ingenieros de este país están llamados, por su habilidad y experiencia en esta clase de trabajos, á llevar á efecto la construcción del gran sistema ferrocarrilero de aquel vasto imperio.

## IMPORTACIÓN DE BANANOS EN NUEVA ORLEANS.

Importación de bananos en Nueva Orleans, procedentes de Centro América y Colombia, durante el segundo semestre del año de 1899, según los datos comunicados por el Consulado de Costa Rica en aquel puerto á la Legación del mismo país en Wáshington:

Procedencia.	Mes de julio.		Mes de agosto.		Mes de setiembre.	
	Racimos.	Valor en oro.	Racimos.	Valor en oro.	Racimos.	Valor en oro.
Costa Rica.....	147, 800	\$51, 730	159, 500	\$57, 450	159, 500	\$60, 150
Belice .....	14, 600	3, 650	20, 000	5, 000	10, 400	2, 600
Guatemala.....	6, 500	1, 439	9, 200	2, 039	7, 000	1, 651
Honduras .....	174, 217	41, 548	184, 823	41, 027	169, 560	38, 927
Nicaragua.....	192, 000	50, 801	157, 000	42, 351	109, 000	21, 707
Colombia.....	43, 000	16, 856	32, 000	11, 926	25, 000	5, 892
Total .....	578, 117	166, 024	562, 523	159, 793	480, 460	130, 927

Procedencia.	Mes de octubre.		Mes de noviembre.		Mes de diciembre.	
	Racimos.	Valor en oro.	Racimos.	Valor en oro.	Racimos.	Valor en oro.
Costa Rica.....	182, 900	\$76, 060	165, 500	\$56, 671	173, 200	\$67, 523
Belice .....	13, 500	3, 375	9, 000	2, 250	8, 200	2, 050
Guatemala.....	3, 500	770	2, 105	459	1, 100	241
Honduras .....	151, 559	33, 190	104, 242	22, 728	122, 200	26, 639
Nicaragua.....	118, 000	24, 136	88, 000	16, 438	79, 000	19, 305
Colombia.....	35, 000	8, 326	16, 000	3, 531	62, 000	18, 996
Total .....	504, 459	145, 857	384, 947	102, 077	445, 700	134, 754

## RESUMEN.

	Racimos.	Valor en oro.
Costa Rica.....	988, 400	\$369, 584
Belice .....	75, 700	18, 925
Guatemala.....	29, 405	6, 599
Honduras .....	906, 601	204, 059
Nicaragua.....	752, 000	174, 738
Colombia.....	213, 000	65, 527
Total.....	2, 965, 106	839, 432

## COSTA RICA.

## MINAS Y MINERALES DE LA REPÚBLICA.

Á solicitud de la Legación de los Estados Unidos en San José, la Dirección del Departamento Nacional de Estadística de aquella capital ha preparado el informe acerca de las minas del país, que va á continuación. Dicho trabajo va acompañado de la traducción al castellano de la obra sobre minas de Costa Rica, publicada en 1891 por el Doctor ERNEST MELLIS, Ingeniero de Minas, la cual se encuentra en la biblioteca de esta Oficina.

El Director del Departamento Nacional de Estadística, con fecha reciente, informa que, con motivo de la alza del precio del cobre, el interés en las minas de este metal que existen en Costa Rica, es muy grande al presente y que algunas de estas minas están produciendo grandes utilidades. Relativamente á la famosa mina de cobre "Las Cóncavas," situada á inmediaciones de la ciudad de Cartago, dice que se ha formado una compañía entre Don EZEQUIEL GUTIÉRREZ, propietario de ella, los Señores WALTER J. FORD y ROBERT A. CRESPI, de Londres, y W. STAINFORD, de Hamburgo, con capital suficiente para emprender trabajos en grande; que han rehabilitado los cañones antiguos y emprendido obras nuevas, habiendo logrado encontrar la veta principal, y que ésta es tan rica que los Señores FORD y CRESPI, que son empresarios de minas de oro en explotación, aseguran que los productos de "Las Cóncavas" serán mayores que los de aquéllas. Otra mina de cobre muy rica ha sido descubierta hace poco en el trazado de un camino en construcción entre Orosi y las llanuras del General, hacia el Pacífico. El Señor MATAMOROS, propietario de la mina, que es un mecánico inteligente é ilustrado, ha preparado sin dificultad en sus talleres, y utilizado en piezas de maquinaria, el metal extraído de esta otra rica mina.

Léase á continuación el referido informe, una copia del cual fué remitida á esta Oficina por la Legación de Costa Rica en Wáshington:

"Tengo el honor de corresponder á la nota de esa Secretaría fecha de ayer, cuya nota se refiere á la recibida con fecha 13 del próximo pasado abril, ordenando ambas suministrar informes acerca de la explotación de minas, sus productos, procedimientos de laboreo y legislación vigente sobre la materia.

"En cuanto á este último punto (legislación vigente) el Señor Juez de lo Contencioso-Administrativo, ante quien se tramitan todos los expedientes relativos á minas, informa que cuanto rige se reduce á las disposiciones que comprenden la ordenanza de minería de 26 de junio de 1830, y las leyes de 10 de julio de 1848, de 16 de octubre de 1855, de 8 de junio de 1864, de 28 de julio de 1868 y de 10 de mayo de 1869.

"En cuanto á procedimientos en los expedientes de denuncia, se siguen los fijados por la citada ordenanza, sin que las otras leyes de que se ha hecho mérito los varíen, puesto que casi todas ellas se refieren puramente á la administración.

“La ley de 1869 dispone que los minerales de cobre, hierro y plomo quedan sujetos, en cuanto á la medida de sus pertenencias, á las prescripciones de la ordenanza de minería, derogando la modificación hecha por la ley de 1855; dispone que sólo podrán denunciarse y concederse en terrenos de propiedad particular, las vetas, placeres ó depósitos de metales, semimetales y piedras preciosas, y en su artículo 11 aumenta y prorroga los términos fijados en los 42, 48 y 88 de la ordenanza. La ley de 1869 permite que los extranjeros denuncien minas bajo las mismas condiciones que los nacionales, lo que antes no se permitía.

“El registro y examen de las leyes anteriores hace concurrir con el Señor Juez de lo Contencioso-Administrativo en la opinión de que es preciso decretar una nueva ley de minas que atendiendo á las necesidades actuales, reglamente tanto la manera de adquirir las minas como las obligaciones de los mineros y los derechos de los propietarios de los terrenos en que las minas se encuentren.

“Son muchos los denuncios que se han hecho de minas en distintos lugares del país, especialmente en la vertiente del Pacífico; fácil sería hacer un extracto de los denuncios hechos de 1893 para acá, pero para que ese trabajo fuera de algún provecho en esta ocasión sería preciso averiguar cuales de esos denuncios están en vigor y se explotan, pues muchos han debido caducar por la misma fuerza de la ley que obliga á trabajar esas minas dentro de un año para mantener la propiedad de las adjudicaciones. Cuando la explotación de esas empresas mineras tiene alguna importancia en seguida se conoce, por lo que si alguno de esos denuncios significa algo, ha de estar comprendido en la lista de las minas en explotación, que se encontrará adelante.

“La Oficina de Estadística publicó en 1895 una lista de las minas conocidas hasta 1892, y por eso se habló antes de los denuncios presentados de 1893, inclusive, para acá. Había en ese año (1892) en la República las minas siguientes:

Nombres.	Situación.	Clase de mineral.
La Trinidad.....	Ciruelitas.....	Oro y plata.
La Unión.....	idem.....	Idem.
Santa Rita.....	idem.....	Idem.
Bella Vista.....	idem.....	Idem.
Costa Rica.....	idem.....	Idem.
La Zagala.....	idem.....	Idem.
La Zamora.....	idem.....	Idem.
Buenaventura.....	idem.....	Idem.
San José.....	idem.....	Idem.
Sacra Familia.....	Monte Aguacate.....	Idem.
La Minita.....	idem.....	Idem.
Mina de los Castro.....	Corralillo.....	Idem.
San Rafael.....	idem.....	Idem.
Mina de los Oreamunos.....	idem.....	Idem.
Machuca.....	idem.....	Idem.
Trinidad del Aguacate.....	idem.....	Idem.
Quebrada Honda.....	Quebrada Honda.....	Idem.
Peña Grande.....	Cerro de San Ramón.....	Idem.
Mina de Acosta.....	Márgenes del Río Jesús.....	Idem.
Las Cóncavas.....	Cartago.....	Cobre.
Palmares.....	Cordillera del Aguacate.....	Oro, plata y plomo.
Mancuerna.....	Costa del Sardinal.....	Cobre.
Mata Palo.....	idem.....	Idem.
Puerta de Palacio.....	idem.....	Idem.
Hoja Chigües.....	Chapernal.....	Idem.

“Las minas que hay en explotación, según los informes hasta ahora obtenidos, son las siguientes:

Nombre de la mina.	Localidad.
Tres Amigos.....	Abangares.
La Trinidad.....	Miramar.
Minas Monte Aguacate.....	Monte Aguacate.
Thayer Mining and Milling Co.:	
Bella Vista.....	Miramar.
Montezuma.....	Idem.
Costa Rica Union Mining Co., “La Unión”.....	Ciruelitas.

“Otras empresas mineras están en proyecto ó ya preparando las instalaciones, tales como: Sindicato de Macacona, Minas de cobre del Sardinal, Sindicato del Guanacaste, Boston and C. A. Mines and Development Co., Minas de Machuca Alta, Costa Rica Pacific Gold Mining Co., y Mina San Gerardo.

“Acerca de estas empresas en proyecto no puede esta Oficina ofrecer informes positivos por no haberlos recibido aún de los interesados.

“Acerca de las minas en explotación los datos recogidos son los siguientes:

“La mina Tres Amigos está situada en Abangares, cantón de Cañas, Provincia de Guanacaste, como á 40 millas de Punta Arenas, y tiene además de cuantiosos yacimientos minerales, cuyo rendimiento da un promedio de 1 oz. 10 dwt. 8 grs. de oro y 3 oz. 16 dwt. 4 grs. plata por tonelada, dos mil hectáreas de terrenos bastante fértiles cubiertos en su mayor parte de bosques.

“Esta mina comenzó á trabajarse desde hace tres á cuatro años, pero con tal escasez de recursos que apenas pudieron montar diez mazos pequeños para moler metal y una modesta instalación para tratar el mineral por el antiguo sistema de mercurio.

“Á pesar de esto, se han producido en élla de tres á cuatro mil pesos oro por mes, los que han servido para habilitar la mina con varios y extensísimos cañones; descubrir nuevas vetas; construir una carretera de 50 kilómetros de longitud, una buena casa de alto para habitación, varias pequeñas para peones, y por último 5 kilómetros de tranvía de tracción animal para la conducción de minerales.

“Últimamente se ha conseguido un crédito que se está empleando en montar lo necesario para el tratamiento de los metales por medio del cianuro de potasio, tratamiento del que se espera obtener pingües resultados, si ha de juzgarse por los ensayos hechos hasta ahora en pequeña escala. Con la nueva instalación podrán beneficiarse novecientas toneladas de lamas mensualmente.

“La Trinidad (Miramar) y Minas del Aguacate (región del mismo nombre). Acerca de estas empresas dice el Señor WALTER J. FORD:

“En cuanto á la mina La Trinidad que pertenece á una compañía inglesa, se está esperando á un experto que viene á examinarla, pues por ahora los trabajos en esta propiedad son de poca consideración y encaminados solamente á conservarla.

“Lo mismo se puede decir respecto á las minas del Monte del Aguacate, pues los metales en general son rebeldes y necesitan una instalación costosa para su beneficio, la cual se trata de conseguir por medio de una compañía extranjera.

“Es de desearse, tanto por los intereses del país como por las personas directamente interesadas, que tengan buen éxito los beneficios para el empleo del cianuro, que están casi listos en la mina Tres Amigos y en el distrito de Miramar, pues por medio de este sistema la industria minera en el Transvaal ha podido alcanzar la prosperidad de que está gozando hoy día.’

“Sobre la mina Bella Vista (Miramar), Thayer Mining and Milling Co., dice su administrador, el Señor F. W. CONN:

“Tengo el gusto de someter á Ud. los datos siguientes sobre Bella Vista Mining and Milling Co. (mina Bella Vista): Empleados, 137. Minas: Bella Vista, 2,500 pies de taladros; Ojoche, 150 pies de taladros; Primera Extensión Bella Vista, 50 pies de taladros. Fuerzas: Agua, poder de 80 caballos. Maquinaria: 20 mazos, 250 libras cada uno; tratamiento de cianuro, 30 toneladas por día; tranvía aéreo, 1,200 pies. Varias vetas que dan de cinco pesos (\$5) á quinientos pesos (\$500) en oro y plata.

“El Señor F. W. CONN es el administrador de la mina Montezuma (Miramar), Thayer Mining and Milling Co., acerca de la cual suministra los informes que siguen:

“Tengo el gusto de someter á Ud. los datos siguientes sobre Thayer Mining and Milling Co. (mina Montezuma): Empleados, 151. Minas: Montezuma, 1,027 pies de taladros; San Antonio, 305 pies de taladros; San Rafael, 250 pies de taladros; Quien Sabe, 78 pies de taladros; Segunda Extensión Bella Vista, 60 pies de taladros; Popenoe, Cowdery, 110 pies de taladros. Fuerza: Agua, poder de 150 caballos. Maquinaria: 20 mazos, 850 libras cada uno (edificado); tratamiento de cianuro, 50 toneladas por día (proyectado). Varias vetas que dan de cinco pesos (\$5) á doscientos pesos (\$200) en oro y plata.’

“Acerca de la Costa Rica Union Mining Company dice su administrador, el Señor O. H. COLBURN, lo que sigue:

“El trabajo principal se ha limitado á la mina de Santa Rita, que es una veta muy fuerte; mide de 12 á 15 pies de ancho y cuya dirección es de noroeste á sudeste á cerca de 40°.

“Esa mina ha sido trabajada antes por medio de 4 túneles, con los que se ha profundizado á más de 300 pies, y por las excavaciones y detenidas que aun se ven, se juzga que debe haberse extraído de allí una gran cantidad de mineral.

“El valor de la brosa no es alto, va de \$8 á \$10 la tonelada; con todo, en una veta tan ancha, con las facilidades necesarias para la extracción, la riqueza es suficiente para explotar la empresa satisfactoriamente.

“El metal es rebelde al tratamiento de simple trituración, pero se

están ensayando métodos de tratamiento más satisfactorios, acerca de los cuales daré informes cuando hayan terminado los experimentos que están en práctica.

“La mayor parte de los trabajos que se hacen son de reparación. Se está colocando una batería de 40 mazos; 20 están ya en acción y los otros quedarán instalados dentro de corto tiempo.

“Debido á escasez de agua la maquinaria no ha trabajado bastante tiempo para dar una estimación satisfactoria del producto.

“El agua que mueve toda la maquinaria se ha tomado de una quebrada al norte y se lleva por una zanja que rodea la montaña hasta llegar á una tubería de hierro de 14 pulgadas de diámetro, obteniendo una caída de 350 pies. Esta fuerza es suficiente para todos los trabajos por (á lo menos) diez meses en el año.

“Hay además muchas otras vetas llamadas San Lucas, Los Angeles, San Nicolas y otras que representan muestras de ser valiosas; se están haciendo estudios y en cuanto éstos den indicios positivos acerca de la riqueza de esas vetas se darán informes concretos.

“Hay ahora de 75 á 100 trabajadores empleados, pero á medida que se vayan abriendo nuevos trabajos se enganchará la gente necesaria.

“Lo que hasta ahora se ha hecho en la mina Unión ha servido para dar las más alentadoras seguridades de que una explotación enérgica dará amplia recompensa y de que la industria minera de Costa Rica obtendrá la fama y el nombre que justamente merece.

“Estos son, Señor Ministro, los informes que hasta ahora he podido obtener acerca de las minas en explotación.

“En cuanto al laboreo parece ser que la extracción de los metales es en general difícil para hacerla por los procedimientos ordinarios, pero se tiene esperanza de que el tratamiento por medio del cianuro resuelva la dificultad.

“La cuenta de los productos de las minas no se ha llevado con escrupulosidad, debido á que con ser libre la exportación de las pastas, éstas se embarcan en la mayoría de los casos sin conocimiento de la Oficina de Estadística, pero personas conocedoras del rendimiento de nuestras minas valúan la exportación de oro en barras en no menos de \$400,000 oro al año.’

“No se han publicado los ensayos de las pastas extraídas de muestras; por esto no se acompañan datos acerca de la ley del oro y plata exportados.

“En la Tipografía Nacional se publicó en 1891 un informe que sobre las minas del Aguacate y de Los Castros escribió el Ingeniero de minas Mr. MELLISS. Este informe traducido del inglés por Don MANUEL CARAZO PERALTA y anotado por Don FRANCISCO MARÍA IGLESIAS, comprende muchos datos preciosos sobre nuestra riqueza minera. Muy útil sería que al trasmitir estos apuntes á la Legación americana se acompañara un ejemplar de aquel informe, del cual ha de haber algunos en la Oficina de Canjes y Publicaciones anexa á la Biblioteca Nacional.”

## CUBA.

**RECAUDACIÓN DE LAS RENTAS EN LA HABANA EN 1899.**

Según los datos estadísticos suministrados por el Departamento de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos, la cantidad recaudada en la Habana durante los 301 días hábiles del año de 1899, fué de \$11,097,154.41, ó sea un promedio de \$36,867.62 diariamente. La cantidad total colectada provino de las fuentes siguientes: derechos de importación, \$9,867,930.67; derechos de exportación, \$752,349.19; derechos de tonelaje, \$250,957.09; impuesto especial para la mejora de la bahía, \$129,645.71; derechos de inspección de ganado, \$31,846.19; impuesto de almacenaje y carretaje, \$12,492.01; capitación, \$23,709; multas, confiscaciones, etc., \$6,353.31; por trabajo de los empleados de aduana, además de lo prescrito por el reglamento, \$8,124.09; derechos consulares, \$700.50; otras fuentes, \$13,106.45. El monto total de las cantidades restituidas durante el año fué de \$51,577.18. El total de los derechos recaudados como impuestos postales sobre mercancías fué en 1899, de \$1,169.88. No se recaudó nada en los meses de enero, febrero y marzo de 1899.

**DESCUBRIMIENTO DE RICAS MINAS DE CARBÓN DE PIEDRA.**

La noticia de que se han descubierto minas muy ricas de carbón de piedra de excelente calidad en el distrito de Mayarí puede ejercer gran influencia en el desarrollo futuro de la isla, y además servir para resolver el problema relativo á la manera de utilizar los depósitos de mineral de hierro y manganeso, que se asegura son muy abundantes en aquella parte de la isla.

El examen que se ha hecho de este carbón demuestra que es de la mejor calidad y muy parecido al que se conoce en los Estados Unidos con el nombre de "cannel coal." Según los informes de ingenieros de minas, el descubrimiento de carbón de piedra en Cuba significa un gran aumento en el valor de las propiedades mineras.

**INTRODUCCIÓN DE ANIMALES DOMÉSTICOS.**

Según los datos estadísticos recibidos por el Departamento de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos, el número total de animales domésticos importados por el puerto de la Habana durante el año de 1899, fué de 315,468, á saber: ganado vacuno, 271,207 cabezas; caballos, 4,190; mulos, 4,065; burros, 129; carneros, 2,625; cerdos, 33,027; cabras, 32; otros animales, 193. Del ganado vacuno importado, 84,459 cabezas llegaron de los Estados Unidos.

## EL SALVADOR.

## FRANQUICIA POSTAL PARA LA OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS.

En una comunicación que de San José de Costa Rica dirigió á esta Oficina, con fecha 12 de enero del año corriente, el Honorable WILLIAM LAURENCE MERRY, Ministro de los Estados Unidos ante los Gobiernos de Costa Rica, Nicaragua y El Salvador, dice lo siguiente:

“Tengo el placer de anunciar á usted que con fecha 28 de diciembre de 1899, el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de la República de El Salvador me informó de que se había dado aviso á todas las autoridades postales del país de que la franquicia postal había sido otorgada á todas las publicaciones de la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas.”

## ESTADOS UNIDOS.

## COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

## IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 262 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomado de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de diciembre de 1899, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los doce meses que terminaron en diciembre de 1899, comparados con igual período de 1898. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Departamento de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de diciembre, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en febrero.

## OFICINA DE ESTUDIOS GEODÉSICOS Y DE LAS COSTAS.

El informe anual de esta oficina, correspondiente al año que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, fué presentado al Congreso á principios de este año. Refiriéndose á las cartas hidrográficas de los puertos de Puerto Rico, el informe dice que un buque fué enviado á aquella isla y que durante la estación levantó con muy buen éxito una carta hidrográfica que abraza 60 millas de costa, incluyendo la bahía de Jobos, que parece ser muy segura para embarcaciones de cualquier calado. Ya se han publicado mapas referentes á este trabajo, que estará terminado en todo el año de 1900.



En cuanto á los estudios hechos en Alaska, se dice que se emplearon en ellos varios cuerpos de ingenieros y que se extendieron desde el principio del canal de Lynn y el distrito aurífero denominado "Porcupine," hasta los famosos depósitos de oro del Cabo Nome. El enorme aumento en el número de buques que van á los puertos de Alaska hace indispensable un estudio inmediato de la costa por una extensión de 10,000 millas, y la publicación de cartas hidrográficas.

Probablemente en toda la historia de los estudios hechos en aquella región, no se habían visto nunca trabajos más importantes que los que se llevaron á cabo en la desembocadura del Yukon, en la Bahía de Golofnin, en el Puerto Safety y en el Cabo Nome. Toda la parte del delta del Yukon que da al mar aparece ya en los mapas, lo cual reduce los peligros de la navegación en aquellas costas. El Puerto Safety, que es una bahía muy segura, queda como doce millas al este del Cabo Nome. La Bahía de Golovin ofrece también buen asilo á las embarcaciones.

Otros de los trabajos hechos durante el año por la oficina atrás mencionada, fueron los nuevos estudios en las bahías de San Francisco y Chesapeake, en partes de la costa atlántica y en el Golfo de México. La línea divisoria entre los Estados de California y Nevada, desde el lago Tahoe hasta el río Colorado, una distancia de 400 millas, fué terminada. Varios cuerpos de ingenieros estuvieron empleados en hacer triangulaciones, nivelaciones y observaciones magnéticas.

La publicación de mapas ha aumentado más de 50 por ciento, y se han dado á luz como 60,000.

#### EL SISTEMA MÉTRICO DECIMAL.

El movimiento que se ha desarrollado para que los Estados Unidos adopten el sistema métrico decimal cuenta con el apoyo del Secretario de Hacienda, el Honorable LYMAN J. GAGE, quien, en su último informe sobre la condición económica del país, llama la atención del Congreso á lo conveniente que sería un sistema igual al que ha sido adoptado por México, las repúblicas de la América Central y del Sur, las Islas Filipinas, Puerto Rico y otros países. El Secretario GAGE hace notar que la inmensa rivalidad comercial entre las naciones debería ser motivo para que el Congreso adoptase el sistema métrico decimal, como un medio de facilitar más el comercio exterior, y agrega que los Estados Unidos se han comprometido ya á dar ese paso.

Hasta hoy la principal razón que se aducía en favor de dicho sistema era su mayor sencillez, comparado con los otros; pero hay otros argumentos más poderosos para sostenerlo, siendo uno de ellos la conveniencia de evitar la confusión é incertidumbre que resulta de la existencia de dos clases ó más de libras, de dos clases de toneladas, dos clases de galones, etc. El sistema métrico decimal en cuanto á pesas y medidas pondría término á esta confusión.

Aunque los fabricantes é ingenieros de los Estados Unidos no se han decidido todavía en favor de la adopción inmediata del sistema en referencia, es indudable que cada día se manifiesta con más fuerza en su favor el sentimiento público. En Alemania se efectuó hace treinta años

con la mayor facilidad la sustitución del sistema antiguo con el nuevo, y otro tanto podría hacerse sin gran dificultad en los Estados Unidos.

#### FABRICACIÓN DE CARROS DE ACERO.

Hasta el año de 1896 no existía la industria de carros de acero en los Estados Unidos. Sin embargo, á principios de este año hay 10,000 hombres empleados en la manufactura de dichos carros, y es indudable que dicha industria se desarrollará más y más cada día. Ya los carros de acero para carga hechos en los Estados Unidos se encuentran en varias partes de Europa y aun de África. Existen muchas razones para que sean preferidos á los de madera. Un carro de acero resiste mucho más que un carro de madera. Uno de estos últimos puede llevar con facilidad cien mil libras de carga. Últimamente tres de los principales ferrocarriles de los Estados Unidos pidieron á la "Pressed Steel Car Company," de Pitisburgo, 2,500 carros capaces de llevar cada uno cien mil libras de carga. El valor total del pedido asciende á \$2,750,000. En el mes de diciembre del año pasado, el gobierno francés pidió á la misma compañía 100 carros de acero para el ferrocarril "París, Lyon, Méditerranée." Como 70 de estos carros están en construcción para el gobierno británico, que los usará en el "Egyptian Railroad." Se enviarán operarios de los Estados Unidos con el objeto de armarlos.

Mientras mayor es la capacidad de un carro de acero, menor es la relación de su peso á la carga que lleva. Un carro de acero capaz de llevar 100,000 libras pesa 35,000, esto es, el mismo peso que tiene un carro de madera que solamente puede llevar 70,000 libras de carga. Un carro de madera dura por término medio quince años, y se gastan como \$35 al año para mantenerlo en buena condición. Se calcula que un carro de acero puede durar cincuenta años y que bastan de \$10 á \$15 al año para repararlo.

#### PRODUCCIÓN DE HIERRO EN LINGOTES DURANTE EL AÑO DE 1899.

La "American Iron and Steel Association" ha recibido de los fabricantes de los Estados Unidos estadísticas completas relativas á la producción de toda clase de hierro en lingotes en 1899. También le han llegado informes sobre la cantidad de hierro en lingotes que había disponible y lista para el mercado el 31 de diciembre de 1899.

En 1899 los estados que produjeron hierro en lingotes fueron 21, contra 19 en 1897 y 1898. La producción total en 1899 fué de 13,620,703 toneladas, contra 11,773,934 toneladas en 1898, ó sea un aumento de 1,846,769 toneladas. La producción de hierro en lingotes de Bessemer fué de 8,202,778 toneladas, contra 7,337,384 toneladas en 1898. La producción de hierro básico en lingotes fué de 985,033 toneladas, contra 785,444 toneladas en 1898. La cantidad de hierro especular y de ferromanganeso producida ascendió á 219,768 toneladas, contra 213,769 toneladas en el año anterior. La producción de hierro en lingotes, fundido al carbón de madera, fué de 284,766 toneladas en 1899 y de 296,750 toneladas en 1898.

La cantidad de hierro en lingotes que aun permanecía en manos de los fabricantes al terminar el año ascendía á 63,429 toneladas, contra 291,233 toneladas el 31 de diciembre de 1898. El número total de hornos funcionando al terminar el año de 1899 era de 289, contra 240 en la misma fecha de 1898.

#### CÁLCULOS FINALES SOBRE LAS COSECHAS EN 1899.

La Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos ha completado y publicado sus últimos cálculos relativos á las cosechas en 1899. Los valores que se dan reconocen por base el promedio de los precios el 1º de diciembre, siguiendo lo que se ha practicado siempre en dicho Departamento.

Según las cifras oficiales, se ve que la extensión de terreno sembrado de trigo era de 44,592,516 acres, la producción de 547,303,846 *bushels*, y el valor de éstos de \$319,545,259. El promedio de la producción por acre fué de 12.3 *bushels* y el promedio del precio por *bushel* de 58.4 centavos.

La extensión sembrada de maíz fué de 82,108,387 acres, la producción de 2,078,143,933 *bushels*, y el valor de éstos \$629,210,110. El promedio de la producción por acre fué de 25.3 *bushels* y el promedio de precio por *bushel* de 30.3 centavos.

La extensión sembrada de avena era de 26,341,380, la producción de 796,177,713 *bushels*, y el valor de éstos de \$198,167,975. El promedio de producción por acre fué de 30.02 *bushels* y el promedio de valor por *bushel* de 24.9 centavos. La cosecha de cebada fué calculada en 73,381,563 *bushels*; la de centeno, en 23,961,741 *bushels*; la de trigo sarraceno, en 11,094,473 *bushels*; la de patatas, en 228,783,232 *bushels*, y la de heno en 56,653,756 toneladas.

#### INTRODUCCIÓN DE CAFÉ EN 1899.

Según los datos compilados por una casa de Nueva York, hubo en 1899 un aumento de 16,044 sacos en la introducción de café conocido con el nombre de "Savanilla grade," sobre el año precedente. En cuanto al café conocido con el nombre de "Maracaibo grade" hubo una disminución de 96,677 sacos, en comparación con 1898. El número de sacos de cada clase en los dos años mencionados fué como sigue:

	1899.	1898.
Maracaibo .....	329,507	426,184
Savanilla .....	208,271	192,227
Centroamericano <i>a</i> .....	78,126	165,517
Mexicano .....	141,244	125,796
De La Guayra .....	73,288	45,122
Coro .....	7,915	7,115
De Jamaica .....	29,740	25,110
De Costa Rica .....	110,713	.....
Total .....	984,813	987,191

*a* En 1898 el café de Costa Rica figuró como café centroamericano, pero en 1899 ocupó un puesto especial.

## CIRCULACIÓN TOTAL DE DINERO Y POR CABEZA.

La cantidad de dinero circulante el 1º de enero de este año era de \$1,980,398,170, cantidad que no se había visto antes. El 1º de febrero había habido un aumento de cerca de \$23,000,000, lo cual elevó la cantidad total de dinero circulante en los Estados Unidos á \$2,033,149,355. La circulación por cabeza, calculada sobre una población de 77,116,000 habitantes, era de \$25.98. Un hecho notable es que casi la mitad de la moneda circulante era en oro acuñado ó certificados de oro, pagaderos en este metal en la Tesorería de los Estados Unidos. Se calcula que la moneda de oro en circulación el 1º de febrero de este año ascendía á \$619,447,176, y los certificados de oro á \$184,882,889. El valor total de la moneda de oro circulante en el país el 1º de enero, era de \$1,016,009,877, y el 1º de febrero ascendía á la suma de \$1,022,943,682.

## EXPORTACIÓN DE HIERRO Y ACERO.

Nada hace tan palpable el maravilloso aumento del comercio exterior de los Estados Unidos como la exportación de hierro y acero. En el año de 1890 la exportación total de ambos artículos fué de \$27,000,000, y en 1899 ascendió á \$105,689,645. Al mismo tiempo, la importación de manufacturas de hierro y acero ha disminuido con igual rapidez, pues en 1890 fué de \$44,544,140, y en 1899 bajó á \$15,799,206.

En la siguiente tabla se ven las principales clases de manufacturas de hierro y acero exportadas en el año de 1899, en comparación con 1889:

	1889.	1899.
Maquinaria .....	\$8, 222, 904	\$37, 064, 168
Ferretería para constructores .....	4, 052, 136	8, 943, 530
Rieles de acero .....	279, 485	6, 122, 382
Alambre .....	679, 969	5, 526, 930
Locomotoras .....	1, 586, 746	4, 707, 850
Otras máquinas de vapor .....	335, 646	4, 103, 828
Máquinas de coser .....	2, 575, 539	3, 282, 241
Hierro en lingotes .....	227, 048	2, 047, 301
Planchas y hojas .....	32, 720	1, 955, 773
Clavos y tachuelas de alambre .....	169, 313	1, 348, 133
Fundiciones .....	432, 621	1, 038, 336
Barras de acero .....		1, 037, 644
Prensas de imprimir .....	277, 800	892, 620
Armas de fuego .....	9, 229	516, 787
Romanas y balanzas .....	216, 346	487, 117
Clavos cortados .....	282, 458	482, 882
Cuchillería .....	105, 245	252, 156
Otros artículos .....	3, 127, 299	25, 818, 671
Total .....	23, 712, 814	105, 689, 645

## ESTATUA DEL GENERAL WASHINGTON PARA LA CIUDAD DE PARÍS.

Una sociedad de señoras de los Estados Unidos va á presentar á la ciudad de París dentro de pocos meses una hermosa estatua del General JORGE WASHINGTON, la cual será colocada en un lugar prominente. La estatua es obra de los Señores DANIEL C. FRENCH y E. C. POTTER.

El trabajo de los escultores está ya terminado, y el vaciado está á cargo de la Henry Bonnard Company. La estatua medirá 15 pies desde la parte superior de la base hasta la parte superior de la cabeza, pero el brazo levantado, con la espada en la mano, le agrega unos 6 pies más, y así es que desde la parte inferior de la base hasta la punta de la espada medirá la estatua cosa de 22 pies.

La estatua representa al General WASHINGTON vestido de uniforme y montado en un hermoso caballo. Para la cabeza de la estatua se tomó por modelo el busto de WASHINGTON por HOUDON, y también se emplearon algunos retratos del mismo que se consideran auténticos.

La estatua será erigida en la Place d'Iéna sobre un pedestal que ha sido diseñado por McKIM, MEAD y WHITE.

#### DERECHOS DE IMPORTACION EN LA ISLA DE GUAM.

El Subsecretario de Marina de los Estados Unidos, Mr. CHARLES H. ALLEN, ha promulgado una orden del Presidente McKINLEY relativa á los derechos de importación en la isla de Guam. En la lista de artículos libres de derechos figuran animales, ladrillos, carretones, carretas de mano, cemento, carbón de leña, cromo-litografías, algodón en rama, hilazas é hilo de algodón, guantes de algodón, grabados, abonos, cal, maquinaria de toda clase, carruajes, quinina, efectos de teatro, artículos de uso personal que los viajeros introduzcan con su equipaje, artículos para escuelas, carbón de piedra y cok. Generalmente hablando, los derechos son iguales á los establecidos en las Islas Filipinas y, en algunos casos, menores.

#### NUEVO FERROCARRIL EN PUERTO RICO.

Está para construirse un nuevo ferrocarril en Puerto Rico con capital de los Estados Unidos. La línea irá de San Juan á un punto distante 40 millas de dicha ciudad. Más tarde unirá á Mayagüez con San Juan. Los rieles serán hechos por la Pennsylvania Steel Company y las locomotoras serán también construidas en el mismo Estado. La American Car and Foundry Co. fabricará 30 carros para este ferrocarril, y R. S. NEWBOLD & Co. dos aljibes de acero. La compañía construirá un muelle en San Juan para facilitar el manejo de la carga.

#### EL AMIANTO.

Este mineral se encuentra generalmente en una roca serpentina, de la que se extrae haciendo saltar la roca y separando después á martillazos las vetas de amianto. Hasta estos últimos años el empleo del amianto era muy reducido, pero á causa de las grandes presiones en los motores de vapor ha sido preciso encontrar guarniciones más resistentes que las de cáñamo y caucho. El amianto es uno de los mejores aisladores que pueden emplearse en los acumuladores, y además, por ser incombustible, es la garantía más eficaz contra los incendios.

Este mineral se encuentra en el Canadá, en el Cabo de Buena Espe-

ranza, Siberia, Italia, Hungría y algunas partes de los Estados Unidos. Su uso aumenta de día en día en este país y ha llegado á ser indispensable en algunas clases de artes.

#### EL ESPARTO.

Dice el "Scientific American" correspondiente al mes de enero, que del esparto, planta abundante, rebelde á todo cultivo, que crece al azar en los terrenos más pobres, se ha extraído alcohol y pasta para fabricar papel y fibra textil.

El alcohol de esparto posee las calidades necesarias para ser utilizado en la farmacia. Cien kilos de esparto producen 14 litros de alcohol y 60 kilos de pasta para papel.

La fabricación de papel de esparto no es nueva, y hasta ahora era el único fin á que esta planta se dedicaba; pero se ignoraba que pudiera extraerse de ella alcohol, y, sobre todo, que la producción de este último, en vez de perjudicar la pasta para papel, le fuera favorable. Esto depende de que en el esparto la goma y la celulosa en formación son las que dan el alcohol, y la extracción de estas sustancias facilita el blanqueo de la pasta. Todo el procedimiento es muy sencillo.

La extremada abundancia del esparto en ciertas regiones y la facilidad con que se produce lo hacían considerar en otro tiempo como una plaga; pero sus propiedades para la producción de la mencionada pasta han hecho que se le mire como planta útil. Antes de mucho años será visto como una gran fuente de riqueza.

#### PRODUCCIÓN DE HOJALATA.

El periódico "Tin and Terne" calcula, apoyado en datos fidedignos, que la producción total de hojalata y mate durante el año pasado ascendió á 8,250,000 cajas, que contenían 112 hojas cada una. Esto muestra un gran aumento sobre la producción de 1898, pero no es posible hacer un cálculo en libras á fin de establecer una comparación exacta.

#### INGRESOS EN LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS DURANTE EL MES DE ENERO.

El 6 de febrero de este año el Departamento de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos publicó un informe en que aparecen los ingresos totales en las Islas Filipinas durante el mes de enero, los cuales ascendieron á \$557,308.50. Los ingresos provinieron de las fuentes siguientes: aduanas, \$420,500; renta interior, \$97,000; otras fuentes, \$39,808.50.

#### GRAN CONTRATO PARA CONSTRUCCIONES NAVALES.

La compañía conocida con el nombre de William Cramp & Sons Ship-building Co. ha hecho un contrato para la construcción de dos vapores destinados á la casa de SPRECKELS, de San Francisco. La misma compañía va á construir diez vapores correos que, en caso de guerra, po-

drán usarse como cruceros auxiliares. Tres de éstos son para la "New York and Cuba Mail S. S. Co.," dos para la "Oceanic S. S. Co.," dos para la "International Navigation Co.," que serán iguales al San Luis y al San Pablo, y dos para la línea Clyde.

#### AUTOMÓVILES PARA EL SERVICIO DEL CORREO.

La Electric Vehicle Co. está ahora tratando con la Administración General de Correos sobre la cuestión de fabricar automóviles para recoger y distribuir la correspondencia en las principales ciudades del país. Se dice que los empleados de correo toman gran interés en el asunto. El proyecto se ha sometido á prueba con excelentes resultados en la ciudad de Wáshington y se ensayará también en Nueva York. Si se obtienen buenos resultados, se recomendará al Congreso el uso de automóviles y se le pedirá que señale una cantidad para la compra de los mismos á fin de ponerlos en servicio en Nueva York, Filadelfia, Boston, Wáshington, Chicago y San Luis.

#### UN MAPA GIGANTESCO.

Uno de los objetos más interesantes que se enviarán de los Estados Unidos á la Exposición de París será un enorme mapa de la ciudad de Nueva York, que está ahora en vía de construcción. Medirá 28 pies de largo y 24 de ancho, y la escala será de 600 pies por pulgada. Abarcará todos los distritos de la gran ciudad y una parte considerable del territorio adyacente. En él se verán los parques, muelles, líneas de ferrocarril, etc., así como los edificios de alguna importancia. Abrazará el mapa más de mil millas cuadradas de territorio. En cada esquina del mismo habrá dibujos de 12 por 18 pulgadas que mostrarán algunas vistas notables de la ciudad, y alrededor del mapa se verán grabados más pequeños representando edificios públicos. El mapa estará muy bien montado. Al mismo tiempo se exhibirá una copia de un mapa en relieve que actualmente se encuentra en el Museo de Albany, y que muestra á la isla de Manhattan tal como era en 1776, y también dos cartas de la ciudad que la representan en 1641 y en 1800. Los cuatro mapas ofrecerán una buena oportunidad para estudiar el crecimiento de Nueva York durante los últimos trescientos años.

#### POSIBLE PROTECCIÓN FEDERAL Á LOS PÁJAROS.

El más antiguo de los dos Senadores del Estado de Massachusetts ha presentado al Senado de los Estados Unidos un *bill* que, si llega á ser ley, impedirá la importación de pájaros, partes de los mismos ó plumas para objetos de ornamentación; pero se permitirá la importación de aquéllos para alimentación, para museos y para colecciones científicos, así como los pájaros vivos cuyas plumas puedan ser removidas, ó estas últimas, siempre que hayan sido tomadas de aves vivas á las cuales no se haya causado ningún daño. La segunda sección del proyecto de ley dispone que no será permitida la transportación de partes de pájaros ó

plumas de éstos á ningún Estado ó Territorio de los Estados Unidos ó á través de los mismos para ser usadas ó vendidas excepto con los fines expresados atrás.

#### **NUEVO PARQUE NACIONAL PROYECTADO.**

Se ha nombrado una comisión especial para que dé un informe sobre las ruinas prehistóricas en la vecindad de Mancos y Cortés, en el estado de Colorado, así como acerca de las que quedan próximas á Aztec, en el territorio de Nuevo México, con el objeto de establecer allí un parque nacional. Esta resolución ha sido adoptada como resultado de la actitud de una parte de los habitantes del estado de Colorado relativa á la protección de dichas ruinas contra las personas que andan en busca de curiosidades. Algunas de las mejor preservadas de estas ruinas han sido deterioradas de tiempo en tiempo por las mencionadas personas, sin miramiento alguno, y por eso se ha creído que es conveniente ponerlas bajo la protección del Gobierno á fin de que puedan ser examinadas por peritos.

#### **EL PALO DE CATALPA PARA DURMIENTES DE FERROCARRIL.**

La compañía del ferrocarril Big Four Railroad ha establecido cerca de la parte central del Estado de Indiana una plantación de 50,000 árboles de catalpa. En la actualidad dicho ferrocarril usa durmientes de roble blanco, que duran por término medio de nueve á diez años. Los durmientes de catalpa no han sido probados en gran escala, aunque algunos han estado en uso por quince años, y cuando se les removió se hallaban bastante bien conservados, aunque un tanto maltratados por la acción de los rieles. El costo de la plantación á que se ha hecho referencia, incluyendo todos los gastos, ha sido como de un centavo por árbol.

#### **EL DIQUE FLOTANTE MÁS GRANDE DEL MUNDO.**

El dique flotante que se está construyendo para el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos en Algiers, que forma parte del puerto de Nueva Orleans, será el más grande del mundo. Este dique podrá levantar cualquier buque de los que hay contruidos ó están por construirse. Tiene el citado dique 525 pies de largo y 100 de ancho, y cala 20 pies. Podrá levantar en tres horas y media 18,000 toneladas. El costo total de la obra será más de \$1,000,000 y estará terminada en el otoño del año corriente.

#### **PRODUCCIÓN DE AZÚCAR DE REMOLACHA.**

La cantidad de azúcar de remolacha producida en los Estados Unidos en 1899 fué como de 95,000 toneladas, lo cual muestra un rápido aumento sobre las 40,000 que se produjeron en el año anterior. Esta última cantidad se obtuvo después de esfuerzos que duraron un cuarto de siglo. Si la sequía no hubiera presentado en el estado de California las dificult-



tades que presentó, la producción total habría sido de más de cien mil toneladas. El azúcar que sale de las fábricas de Illinois y Michigan ocupa ya un lugar importante en los mercados del oeste. Durante el año corriente se establecerán tres nuevas fábricas en la costa del Pacífico. La Golden Gate Beet Sugar Company ha comprado mil acres de terrenos que se adaptan muy bien al cultivo de remolacha, y piensa desarrollarlo con actividad. Esta compañía fué formada por capitalistas de San Francisco. También se va á fundar una fábrica en Los Angeles y otra 25 millas al norte de Las Vegas, Nuevo Mexico.

#### **INMIGRACIÓN EN EL PUERTO DE NUEVA YORK.**

El Comisionado de la Inmigración en el puerto de Nueva York ha terminado su informe anual correspondiente á 1899, y por ese trabajo se ve que el año pasado vinieron más inmigrantes que en cualquier otro año desde 1893. Diez y seis vapores de diferentes compañías trajeron á Nueva York un total de 303,762. Dichos inmigrantes llegaron de los puertos siguientes: puertos del Mediterráneo, 66,316; Bremen, 53,646; Liverpool, 46,061; Hamburgo, 41,787; el Havre, 22,883; Amberes, 20,126; Rotterdam, 17,219; Southampton, 11,341; Glasgow, 6,759; Copenhague, 3,465; Oporto, 1,515; Lisboa, 1,369; Amsterdam, 892; de otros puertos, 351. El aumento en 1899 sobre 1898 fué de 84,111.

#### **NO MÁS PELIGROS EN EL USO DEL CLOROFORMO.**

El 25 de enero proximo pasado los médicos del Cook County Hospital, en Chicago, hicieron con muy buen éxito un experimento con un aparato inventado por el Dr. W. B. HEDDER, de Boston, por medio del cual se evitan los malos resultados que puede producir el uso del cloroformo como anestésico. Lo principal en dicho aparato es que permite la respiración del aire junto con el cloroformo, lo cual, según se dice, impide que el paciente sufra náuseas. Se espera que el empleo de este nuevo aparato acabará con los peligros que acompañan á la anestesia.

#### **EL MAYOR DEPÓSITO DE SAL EN EL MUNDO.**

Se ha averiguado, mediante observaciones prácticas, que el nivel del lago Salado de Utah desciende de día en día, debido al hecho de que una gran cantidad de agua que lo alimentaba se usa ahora para riego. La desaparición de este lago le quitaría al Estado de Utah uno de sus más grandes atractivos, pero dejaría en su lugar uno de los mayores depósitos de sal en el mundo. Hombres científicos han calculado que las aguas de dicho lago contienen como 400,000,000 toneladas de sal. Si se acepta este cálculo como correcto, se ve que todos los otros depósitos de sal en el mundo serían insignificantes comparados con éste, una vez que las aguas hubieran desaparecido, y el artículo se obtendría más fácilmente y más barato que en cualquier otro lugar.

Los Estados Unidos produjeron en el año pasado 2,450,000 toneladas de sal. En esta proporción se necesitarían ciento sesenta y dos años

para agotar la cantidad que dejaría el lago Salado, una vez que se hubiera secado.

### IMPRESOS EN LA EXPOSICIÓN DE PARÍS.

El Honorable F. W. PECK, Presidente de la Comisión de los Estados Unidos en la Exposición de París, ha recibido noticia de que el Gobierno francés ha derogado las leyes aduaneras que imponían altos derechos sobre los impresos que han de circular durante la Exposición, á manera de anuncios. Mr. PECK ha estado tratando por algunos meses de eximir á los expositores americanos de dichos derechos, y en sus esfuerzos con este fin tuvo el apoyo del Departamento de Estado y del Señor Embajador PORTER.

### CONSTRUCCIÓN DE FERROCARRILES EN HAWAI.

Mr. R. E. CONDON, contratista de ferrocarril, que acaba de regresar de Honolulu á los Estados Unidos, se propone llevar á efecto sus proyectos para la construcción de vías férreas en Hawai durante el año de 1900. Los Señores T. L. y A. JOHNSON, de Cleveland, Ohio, construirán probablemente como 300 millas de ferrocarril durante la estación. Sus proyectos incluyen varias líneas de ferrocarril eléctrico en Honolulu y otros lugares. La Kohala and Hilo Railway Company celebrará contratos antes de mucho tiempo para la primera sección de su ferrocarril eléctrico de Honolulu á Kohala. Esta línea tendrá 130 millas de largo.

### GANADOS EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El periódico "Orange Judd Farmer" dice lo siguiente: comparando la condición actual con la de hace un año, se nota un aumento en todas las clases de animales, con excepción de mulos, asimismo que una alza en el precio de los mismos. Según los informes obtenidos, el número de caballos existentes en el país era de 14,886,000, lo cual muestra un aumento de medio por ciento sobre el año anterior. El número de mulos era de 2,240,000, ó sea una disminución de 1.2 por ciento. En cuanto á las vacas, su número ascendía á 32,075,000, lo cual representa un aumento de 1.3 por ciento. Había 42,820,000 carneros y 49,242,000 cerdos.

### EL TRABAJO MANUAL Y EL TRABAJO MECÁNICO.

De conformidad con una resolución del Congreso, el Departamento del Trabajo de los Estados Unidos ha estado haciendo investigaciones acerca de los resultados producidos por la sustitución del trabajo manual con el mecánico, especialmente en las manufacturas de hierro y acero. Por el informe de dicho Departamento, se ve que una lima se hace con máquina en la tercera parte del tiempo que se empleaba para hacerla á mano. En 1857 se necesitaban noventa y ocho horas para hacer el cañon de un rifle, mientras que ahora solamente se requieren poco más de tres horas. Valiéndose de maquinaria se pueden hacer 500 pernos de media pulgada de diámetro y seis de largo, con sus tuercas,

en ocho horas. Antes se necesitaban cuarenta y tres horas para hacer la misma cantidad. La fabricación de 100 pies de tubos de hierro de cuatro pulgadas requería más de ochenta y cinco y un tercio horas de trabajo en 1835, mientras que la misma cantidad se puede hacer ahora en menos de cinco horas.

#### ESTABLECIMIENTO DE FÁBRICAS EN 1899.

El periódico "Textile World," correspondiente al mes de enero de este año, contiene un informe relativo al establecimiento de fábricas de tejidos en los Estados Unidos durante el año de 1899, por el cual se puede ver que se fundaron 91 de tejidos de algodón, 49 de tejidos de lana, 57 de tejidos de malla, 32 de tejidos de seda, y 16 de otras clases, ó sean 245 en todo, contra un gran total de 134 en 1898. Las dos terceras partes de las fábricas de tejidos de algodón fueron establecidas en los estados del Sur, mientras que el aumento en el número de fábricas de tejidos de lana fué mayor en Nueva Inglaterra que en cualquier otra parte del país. En los estados de Pennsylvania y New Jersey se fundó el mayor número de fábricas de tejidos de seda. Dos fábricas de alfombra fueron establecidas, una en el estado de Alabama y la otra en la Carolina del Sur. Dos de las fábricas establecidas en Nueva Inglaterra son para la producción de tejidos ó hilazas de estambre de fina calidad. En una de ellas se ha adoptado el sistema francés.

#### NOTAS MISCELÁNEAS.

Dice el periódico "Engineer" que se ha construido un termostato que sirve para indicar la combustión espontánea que suele ocurrir en los depósitos de carbón. Se colocan estos instrumentos, bien protegidos por tubos de hierro, horizontal y verticalmente en el centro de cada diez pies cúbicos de carbón. El termostato tiene dos puntos de operación, uno á 155° y el otro á 286°, y cuando se llega á estos dos puntos suenan campanas que anuncian la aproximación del fuego.

La industria de petróleo en el estado de California está llamando la atención por lo mucho que ha aumentado. En la actualidad la producción asciende á 15,000 barriles al día, ó sea cerca de 6,000,000 de barriles al año. Esto les deja á los productores entre \$7,000,000 y \$8,000,000 anualmente. El valor del oro que California produce es apenas algo más del doble de esta cantidad.

Un minero de California que ha estado haciendo exploraciones en las costas de la bahía de Disenchantment, en Alaska, declara que ha descubierto platino, metal cuya producción es muy escasa. El platino está mezclado con oro y se le encuentra como á 45 millas al noroeste de Sitka. De los dos metales el platino es el más valioso.

La compañía denominada Steel and Shipping Company of Alabama, ha puesto en operación en Birmingham sus nuevos talleres

para la fabricación de acero. Estos talleres pueden producir como 1,000 toneladas al día, de las cuales 600 serán consumidas por la fábrica de clavos, alambre y varillas de la Alabama Steel and Wire Company. El resto de la cantidad entrará al tráfico general del país, y una considerable parte de ella será exportada. La fábrica de varillas también exportará una gran parte de sus productos. En este establecimiento se emplea maquinaria especial para hacer piezas de tal figura y tamaño que se adapten al comercio exterior. La cantidad de dinero invertida en ambas fábricas asciende á más de \$3,000,000.

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## BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

En esta sección del Boletín Mensual se tratará de los libros y folletos enviados á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que se refieren á asuntos relacionados con los países de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

El canje de publicaciones de Centro y Sud América puede efectuarse por conducto de la "Smithsonian Institution," Wáshington, D. C., por medio de las agencias de distribución que tiene en aquellos países, y que son las siguientes:

Argentina: Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires.

Bolivia: Oficina Nacional de Inmigración, Estadística y Propaganda Geográfica, La Paz.

Chile: Universidad de Chile, Santiago.

Colombia: Biblioteca Nacional, Bogotá.

Costa Rica: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, San José.

Guatemala: Instituto Nacional de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Honduras: Biblioteca Nacional, Tegucigalpa.

México: Todos los envíos gozan de la franquicia del correo.

Nicaragua: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Managua.

Paraguay: Oficina General de Informaciones y Canje y Comisaría General de Inmigración, Asunción.

Perú: Biblioteca Nacional, Lima.

El Salvador: Museo Nacional, San Salvador.

Uruguay: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, Montevideo.

Venezuela: Museo Nacional, Caracas.

El informe de la Comisión de Canal de Nicaragua, 1897-1899, publicado por la Friedenwald Company, de Baltimore, Maryland, acaba de ser recibido en esta Oficina. Esta Comisión, nombrada por el Presidente de los Estados Unidos, de conformidad con la ley de 4 de junio de 1897, recibió instrucciones de continuar los estudios autorizados por la ley de 2 de marzo de 1895, con el objeto de hacer los planos necesarios para

la construcción del Canal de Nicaragua. Componían la Comisión el Contraalmirante JOHN G. WALKER, de la Armada de los Estados Unidos, Presidente; el Coronel PETER C. HAINS, del Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de los Estados Unidos, y el Profesor LEWIS M. HAUPT. El informe de la Comisión, junto con los de los subingenieros, forma un volumen de 502 páginas, con numerosas ilustraciones y diagramas explicatorios del texto. Acompaña al informe un atlas que contiene los siguientes mapas:

## MAPAS.

No. 1, en 4 hojas:

Hoja No. 1.—Mapa general de la región del Canal de Nicaragua.

Hoja No. 2.—Geología de la región del Canal.

Hojas Nos. 3 y 4.—Hidrología de la región del Canal.

No. 2, en 3 hojas, mostrando las líneas proyectadas para el Canal de Nicaragua sobre una escala de 5,000 pies á la pulgada.

No. 3, en 20 hojas y un índice, muestra las líneas proyectadas para el Canal de Nicaragua sobre una escala de 1,500 pies á la pulgada.

No. 4.—La bahía de San Juan del Norte.

No. 5.—La bahía de Brito, mostrando la hidrografía.

No. 6.—Hidrografía de la costa del mar Caribe, desde el río Indio hasta la boca del Colorado.

No. 7.—El lago de Nicaragua.

## PERFILES.

No. 1, en dos hojas, mostrando la ruta de Lull, Variante I, lado oriental.

No. 2, en dos hojas, mostrando la ruta de Menocal, lado oriental.

No. 3.—Mostrando la ruta de Childs, Variante I, lado occidental.

No. 4.—Mostrando la ruta de Childs, Variante II, lado occidental.

No. 5.—Mostrando el proyectado ferrocarril de San Juan del Norte al río Sábalo.

No. 6.—Mostrando el proyectado ferrocarril del lago de Nicaragua al océano Pacífico.

Tabla de cantidades para las varias rutas del Canal de Nicaragua.

Grabado XIX.—Diagrama de la Regulación del nivel del lago.

“Voyage entre Tocantins et Xingú, 3 avril 1898–3 novembre 1898” (Viaje entre Tocantins y Xingú, del 3 de abril al 3 de noviembre de 1898), por HENRY COUDREAU, con 78 ilustraciones y 15 mapas; París, 1899. Este trabajo es la relación de un viaje á lo largo de los ríos que desaguan en la bahía de Marajó, y de los otros muchos que existen en aquella región, pasando de allí al Amazonas. Hasta hoy dicho territorio había sido *terra incognita*. El descubrimiento geográfico más notable que se hizo durante el viaje es que el Río Anapu, el principal en aquella parte del país, no es el que aparece en el mapa de STIELERS con el nombre de Uanapu, sino el Jacitara, que corre del norte al sur por el meridiano 54 oeste de París, y que se supone tributario de tres bahías, á las que AZEVEDOSCH, que es la autoridad en que se funda el mapa de STIELERS, llama bahías de Camoin, de Cachuana y de Pracupy. Á esta última COUDREAU le da el nombre de Bahía dos Botos. Según él, estas bahías deben ser vistas como ensanches del Anapu, que se angosta cuando llega á 1° 40' de latitud sud, y corre después hacia el sudeste, formando el límite septentrional de la isla de Pacajahy. Por último, desagua en la bahía de Portel, al norte del Pacaja. Las fuentes del Anapu son el

Carupuh y el Tuere. Un afluente importante del Anapu es el Pracuru, que desagua en la Bahía dos Botos. El Uanapu que aparece en el mapa de STIELERS es el mismo Pacaja de que habla COUDREAU, cuyo tributario, el Camaraipy, es realmente el Pacaja de dicho mapa.

Catorce ríos fueron explorados, de los cuales solamente dos han aparecido hasta ahora en los mapas. También fueron examinados diez canales, y de éstos dos eran enteramente desconocidos antes. Seis lagos fueron descubiertos. Casi toda aquella región está cubierta de selvas vírgenes, pero en algunas partes existen praderas. Opina M. COUDREAU que es posible vencer los peligros que presenta el clima y que convendría establecer allí colonias europeas, y abriga muchas esperanzas á este respecto. En la actualidad aquel territorio está poco habitado. Los habitantes se dedican al cultivo del cacao y la goma elástica. Hay todavía algunos indios en aquella parte del Brasil, pero la tribu de los Penas, que hace treinta años existía allí, parece que ha desaparecido. Las ilustraciones que el libro contiene dan una buena idea de aquella región.

El editor del "Ceylon Observer and Tropical Agriculturist," Mr. J. FERGUSON, ha publicado una edición revisada de su manual titulado "All About Rubber and Gutta Percha." La primera edición apareció hace diez y seis años, la segunda en 1887, y la actual en 1899. En esta última el autor ha incluido todos los informes más recientes relativos á la goma elástica, para lo cual se ha servido especialmente de las valiosas circulares que publica el Director de los Reales Jardines Botánicos de Ceilán. Hay un apéndice que contiene datos importantes sobre las plantas que producen la goma elástica.

Mr. FERGUSON da las siguientes cifras acerca de la producción y consumo de goma elástica en el mundo:

*Producción.*—Goma elástica de Pará, 45,000,000 libras; de Ceará, etc., 9,400,000 libras; de Mangabeira, 6,500,000 libras; de Guayana, 600,000 libras; de Bolivia, 3,000,000 libras; de otros países de la América del Sur, 4,000,000 libras; total de la América del Sur, 68,500,000 libras. El número de libras producidas por otros países fué como sigue: la América Central y México, 5,000,000 libras; Java, Borneo y el Archipiélago Oriental, 2,000,000 libras; África oriental y occidental, 48,000,000 libras; Madagascar é Islas de Mauricio, 1,000,000 libras; India y Birmán, 800,000 libras; Ceilán, 15,000 libras; total, 125,315,000 libras.

*Consumo.*—América (Estados Unidos y Canadá), 40,000,000 libras; Gran Bretaña y sus dependencias, con excepción del Canadá, 45,000,000 libras; Europa continental, 40,000,000 libras; gran total, 125,000,000 de libras.

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos ha publicado un trabajo preparado por Mr. ALMONT BARNES, con este título: "Keeping Goats for Profit." Dicho trabajo había aparecido ya en la obra denominada "Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture," corres-

pondiente al año de 1898. El asunto es de tanto interés en este año como cuando por primera vez fué presentado al publico. La principal ganancia en la cría de cabras se obtiene de las pieles de las mismas. Antes de 1864 había tan poca demanda de pieles de cabra en los Estados Unidos, que no estaban clasificadas separadamente para el efecto de imponerlės derechos de importación. En 1898 la valuación, según facturas, de dichas pieles ascendió á \$15,776,601, lo cual equivale á un promedio de 24.3 centavos por libra sobre 64,906,485 libras. El número de cabras que pagan impuestos en varios estados y territorios es de 374,980. Agregando esta cantidad á la que existe en otros estados donde estos animales no son clasificados especialmente, se calcula que hay en el país como 500,000.

El número total de cabras de Angora existente en los Estados Unidos es, según autoridades competentes, de 247,775. Si todas las cabras que hay en el país se utilizaran con el único objeto de proveer de pieles al mercado, lo cual no es el caso, no bastarían para suplir una pequeña parte de la demanda. Calculando que cada piel pesa 4 libras, sería necesario matar 16,226,621 cabras á fin de producir la cantidad total de las pieles de estos animales importadas en 1898. Mr. BARNES hace referencia en su trabajo á las secciones del país que son adecuadas para la cría de las diferentes razas de cabras, así como á otros asuntos de interés relativos á esta industria. El autor llega á las siguientes conclusiones: que los Estados Unidos necesitan á lo menos por valor de \$25,000,000 de pieles de cabra al año; que esta cantidad debería ser producida por el país; que hay cosa de 265,000,000 acres adecuados para la cría de cabras; que estas tierras están situadas en regiones donde se podría utilizar el trabajo de los negros, y que las pieles de cabra importadas en los Estados Unidos vienen de países que compran muy poco en estos mercados.

“Note sur les gisements d’or du Mexique” (Noticia sobre los depósitos de oro en México), por EZEQUIEL ORDÓÑEZ; México, 1898. Publicada en las “Memorias de la Sociedad Científica ‘Antonio Alzate,’” XI. El autor de esta ligera noticia sobre la producción de oro en México está preparando un trabajo más serio sobre este particular. La producción de dicho metal ha aumentado considerablemente durante la última década. En el año económico de 1886–87 se exportaron 418.63 kilogramos de oro, mientras que en el año económico de 1896–97 la exportación ascendió á 10,409.53 kilogramos. El aumento se debe principalmente á que ha mejorado mucho el beneficio del mineral de plata, en el cual se encuentra oro, pues solamente una pequeña cantidad de este metal se extrae de los depósitos de oro, propiamente hablando. Estos últimos, sin embargo, han aumentado considerablemente. Debido á las dificultades de comunicaciones dichos depósitos son de poca importancia, y mientras no se hayan vencido aquėllas, México no ocupará la posición que le corresponde como país productor de oro.

Las principales minas de este metal se encuentran hacia el declive del Pacífico, en los estados de Sonora, Sinaloa, Jalisco y Durango y en

los territorios de Baja California y Tepic, así como en la cadena de montañas que puede considerarse como una extensión de la Sierra Nevada. Es probable que estos depósitos de oro datan de la misma época que los que se encuentran en dicha Sierra, aunque no son tan grandes como los que se han descubierto en los Estados Unidos.

En uno de los números de la revista titulada "Ainslie's Magazine" aparece un artículo en el cual se dice que los grandes lagos forman la principal arteria del comercio en los Estados Unidos. El autor asegura que una tercera parte de la población del país está dependiente de dichos lagos para su tráfico de exportación é importación. Bañan estos lagos el territorio agrícola más próspero y rico del hemisferio occidental, y donde se encuentran las minas más productivas. Es de notar el hecho de que dentro de un círculo con un radio de 400 millas; y cuyo centro es la ciudad de Cleveland, se halla la mitad de la población de os Estados Unidos. Es una verdad reconocida que la transportación por agua cuesta mucho menos que por ferrocarril. Se calcula que cuando el viaje es bastante largo la transportación por buques de vapor cuesta como la cuarta parte de lo que exige la transportación por ferrocarril, y por buques de vela no pasa de la octava parte de lo que cuesta la última.

En el año de 1898 pasaron por el Canal de Sault Ste. Marie como 21,234,664 toneladas de carga proveniente del Canadá, valoradas en \$200,000,000, mientras que buques de los Estados Unidos llevaron en el mismo período y en las mismas aguas más de 168,000,000 de toneladas. El tráfico total por el canal de "Soo" durante menos de ocho meses, es cinco veces mayor en cuanto al número de embarcaciones, y casi dos veces mayor en cuanto al tonelaje que el que pasa por el Canal de Suez durante todo el año.

"Die Deutsche Kolonie Hansa in Südbrasilien" (La colonia alemana de Hansa en el sur del Brasil), por FRANZ GIESEBRECHT. Segunda edición publicada por Hermann Paetel, Berlin, 1899. El autor se ha ocupado en la investigación de asuntos concernientes á las colonias alemanas y á la cuestión de emigración alemana. Opina que el África alemana no debe ser tomada en consideración al tratarse de este particular, con excepción, quizá, de la parte sudoeste, y afirma que Alemania no debe perder de vista, en conexión con su política colonial, todo aquello que se roce con la cuestión de emigración. Dice que no hay muchos países en que pueden establecerse colonos alemanes sin pérdida para la madre patria, y que son menos aun aquellos cuyo desarrollo por medio de elementos alemanes pudiera ser útil á Alemania. Cree Mr. GIESEBRECHT que la América del Sur ofrece las mejores condiciones para el establecimiento de emigrantes alemanes. No son, sin embargo, todos los países de aquel continente los que ofrecen dichas condiciones. El Brasil es la República que presenta mejor campo para la colonización, y por este motivo el autor le dedica especial atención.



En el término de quince años un colono alemán puede llegar en aquel país á ser dueño de una hacienda que le produzca más de lo necesario para él y su familia. Hay 400,000 alemanes establecidos en el sur del Brasil, y podrían establecerse 100,000 más.

El autor llama la atención al hecho de que los alemanes han conservado su lengua y costumbres y que las transmiten á sus descendientes, lo cual hace que permanezcan fieles á la madre patria.

“Die Insel Haiti” (La Isla de Haití), por L. GENTIL TIPPENHAUER y F. A. BROCKHAUS, Leipzig, 1893. Este importante libro ha sido obtenido últimamente por la biblioteca de la Oficina. Su autor ha sido por muchos años conocido como escritor sobre asuntos que se refieren á Haití, especialmente sobre las formaciones geológicas de la isla, donde nació. Dice que el objeto que tiene en mira al publicar esta obra en alemán es dar á conocer las condiciones del país á fin de que los extranjeros se interesen en él. La obra está dividida en tres partes, y contiene numerosos detalles cuidadosamente obtenidos referentes á la historia, clima, condiciones físicas, comercio, industria, etc. El escritor hace un análisis crítico de la población, el idioma, la religión y las instituciones políticas y sociales. El libro contiene 693 páginas y numerosas ilustraciones. Tiene cartas geológicas y cuadros estadísticos, así como una relación bibliográfica desde el año de 1500 hasta la fecha.

Los últimos números del “Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin” (Sociedad Geográfica de Berlín), que han llegado últimamente á la biblioteca de esta Oficina, contienen artículos muy interesantes sobre algunos de los países americanos. Entre ellos hay la descripción de un viaje del Dr. EDUARD SELER en México (Vol. XXIII, 1896, No. 3), y de otro que el mismo caballero hizo en Guatemala (Vol. XXIV, 1897, No. 7). También se publican varias cartas relativas á investigaciones que el Dr. CARL SAPPER hizo en Honduras y otras partes de la América Central (Vol. XXIV, 1897, No. 7, Vol. XXV, 1898, Nos. 5-6). Aparece asimismo un importante artículo de WILHELM SIEVERS (Vol. XXXIII, 1898, No. 5), preparado con noticias que sobre Santo Domingo dejó RICHARD LUDWIG, quien murió antes de poder publicar el resultado de sus investigaciones. Hay un mapa de la parte central de Haití anexo al artículo.

“Rapport préliminaire sur une expedition géologique dans la région andine située entre Las Lajas, Argentine, et Curacautin, Chile” (Informe preliminar de la expedición geológica á la región andina entre Las Lajas, República Argentina, y Curacautin, Chile), por C. BURCKHARDT, publicado en la Revista del Museo de La Plata, IX, 1898. El autor de este trabajo hizo un viaje de exploración muy penoso, pero que dió muy buenos resultados, á lo largo del territorio entre Chile y la República Argentina. Hizo observaciones topográficas y geológicas, comenzando en la parte occidental de la cadena de montañas de Vaca

Muerta y de la parte septentrional de Las Lajas. El resultado de esta expedición es de gran valor científico. La obra contiene varios mapas é ilustraciones.

El Cirujano en Jefe, Dr. WYMAN, del Marine-Hospital Service de los Estados Unidos, ha escrito un interesante tratado sobre la peste bubónica, enfermedad que está causando mucha alarma tanto en la América Central y del Sur como en Hawai. El trabajo del Dr. WYMAN es un estudio completo de la materia y representa el resultado de dos años de investigaciones. Opina él que se puede impedir la introducción de la peste en los Estados Unidos, y agrega que si llegase á aparecer en este país, la ciencia cuenta con los medios necesarios para impedir que se desarrolle. El escritor hace una relación interesante relativa al origen de la peste bubónica, de la manera como se extiende y de las medidas que deben adoptarse para impedir el contagio. El trabajo del Dr. WYMAN es del mayor interés para el público.

La Oficina de Estaciones Experimentales del Departamento de Agricultura ha publicado un boletín, en el cual describe el sistema de riego en los estados que tocan con las Montañas Roqueñas. El autor es Mr. J. C. ULRICH, ingeniero de Denver, Colorado. Describe en su trabajo las condiciones agrícolas de las Montañas Roqueñas, refiriéndose particularmente á los estados de Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah y Wyoming. Principia hablando del clima de los recursos y del aspecto general de esta región, y luego explica como se construyen las zanjas para el riego, dando una relación completa de cuanto se relaciona con éste. El objeto de este trabajo es poner al corriente del asunto sobre que trata á aquéllos que aun no lo conocen, á fin de que eviten errores que podrían costarles caro.

“Notice sur le territoire compris entre Pisagua et Antofagasta, avec la region des hauts plateaux Boliviens” (Noticias relativas al territorio comprendido entre Pisagua y Antofagasta, así como sobre la región de las altas mesas de Bolivia), por LATRILLE ROCH (Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de París, 1899). El mapa del territorio entre Pisagua y Antofagasta anexo á esta obra contiene detalles minuciosos. Hay otros dos, uno en que se expone el ferrocarril de Pisagua á Iquique y el otro que representa un estudio del país entre Ollagua, Potosí y Tupiza. La obra trata de estos mapas y especialmente de los ríos y otras aguas que existen en la parte del territorio boliviano que dichos mapas abarcan.

“Report on the navigability of the eastern rivers of Peru” (Informe sobre los ríos navegables en la parte oriental del Perú), por MELITON CARVAJAL, Lima. Publicado por Pedro Lira en 1896. Este interesante informe contiene un mapa y abarca todo el territorio comprendido desde el ecuador hasta los 14° de latitud sur, y desde la costa del Pacífico hasta la desembocadura del río Madeira en el Amazonas. El Río Madidi

aparece como el límite oriental del Perú. También se ven en el mapa todos los otros ríos de importancia, y por medio de anclas de color rojo se marcan en dicho mapa los puntos hasta donde los mencionados ríos son navegables.

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos ha publicado una circular que lleva el No. 21 y el siguiente título: "Ñames en Las Antillas," obra de DAVID G. FAIRCHILD. En el mes de enero de 1889 dicho Departamento importó una cantidad de ñames de Jamaica y la Barbada, los cuales fueron enviados principalmente á Florida, donde se ha ensayado su cultivo. Varias clases de ñame se cultivan en los estados del Sur, pero no son tan numerosas ni tan buenas como las que se dan en las Antillas. Mr. FAIRCHILD describe las diferentes clases de ñames producidas en aquellas islas, y opina que serán un valioso cultivo en los Estados Unidos y sus dependencias.

El Dr. EDUARD SELER, que acaba de ser nombrado Profesor de Etnología y Arqueología Americanas en la Universidad de Berlín, es una de las autoridades más notables en estas materias, y debe principalmente su reputación á su obra titulada "Old Mexican Life" en los Estados de Puebla, Oaxaca y Chiapas. En 1893 la Academia de Ciencias le otorgó el premio Loubat por un trabajo que lleva este nombre: "Aztec Hieroglyphics of Von Humboldt." El Dr. SELER ha publicado también algunas obras importantes acerca de los antiguos habitantes del Perú.

"El Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Lima," No. 3, 1898, contiene noticias importantes relativas al Perú por ANTONIO RAIMONDIS, y además datos de interés que da el Señor Don NEMESIO A. RAEZ sobre la flora, la fauna y los minerales del país. Hay también una relación referente á los terremotos y erupciones volcánicas que se han verificado desde la época de la conquista hasta el año de 1806. Esta relación continuará publicándose en los números venideros del Boletín. Contiene asimismo la mencionada publicación observaciones climatológicas hechas en el Callao desde el mes de octubre hasta el de diciembre de 1898.

La exportación de frutas de California á Alemania va á ser fomentada con la publicación de un ensayo del Profesor KRUGER, que lleva este título: "American Insect Pests in Germany." Dice que hasta la fecha ningún insecto dañino ha sido llevado de América á su país, y agrega que no hubo razón para el pánico ocasionado por el insecto conocido con el nombre de "San José scale," y por el destructor de las patatas que lleva el nombre de "Colorado potato beetle." Opina que en ninguno de los dos casos hubo motivo de alarma, debido á la diferencia del clima entre los dos países.

La revista denominada "Collier's Weekly" contiene, en su número correspondiente al 13 de enero, una interesante discusión entre el  
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Honorable W. P. HEPBURN, Diputado al Congreso Nacional por el estado de Iowa, y el Contraalmirante ENDICOTT sobre una de las cuestiones más importantes que han de ser tratadas por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, á saber: la construcción del canal de Panamá ó la del de Nicaragua. Las ilustraciones que acompañan á estos artículos muestran el método de excavación empleado por los franceses en Panamá y la ruta del proyectado canal de Nicaragua.

Una de las obras más valiosas que dió á luz el Departamento de lo Interior durante el año económico de 1898-99, fué un mapa de los Estados Unidos. En él aparecen los territorios adquiridos por los Estados Unidos en el hemisferio occidental. El Secretario de lo Interior, al referirse á este trabajo, dice que un ejemplar de dicho mapa debería encontrarse en todo plantel de educación, y especialmente en las escuelas públicas del país. Estos mapas se venden en el mencionado Departamento por la módica suma de 80 centavos cada uno.

“Río Grande do Sul” por GUSTAV KÖNIGSWALD (D. Reimer, Berlín, 1898). El autor de esta obra residió doce años en el Brasil y durante este periodo viajó mucho en el país. Su trabajo es el resultado de cuidadoso estudio. En él se da una descripción completa del estado, su suelo, minerales, clima, vegetación, etc., y hay capítulos dedicados á la población, agricultura, historia, estadística y otros puntos importantes.

“Meine Reise nach den deutschen Kolonien in Río Grande do Sul” (Viaje á las colonias alemanas de Río Grande do Sul), por HERMAN MYER. Publicado por el Carl Meyers Graphisches Institut, Leipzig, 1899. Este trabajo es una excelente descripción del distrito colonial de Río Grande do Sul. Es, sobre todo, muy interesante la relación que el autor hace de los ferrocarriles construidos y proyectados.

Una monografía publicada últimamente en Alemania llama la atención al hecho de que en las Islas Filipinas se pueden cultivar los árboles que producen la goma elástica. Esto es de la mayor importancia, porque la producción de Sumatra y Borneo, que antes era muy grande, está casi agotada, y la demanda por el artículo aumenta de día en día de un modo extraordinario.

“Observaciones meteorológicas en el Perú,” 1888-1890, por SOLAN J. BAILEY (Informe Anual del Observatorio Astronómico de la Universidad de Harvard, Cambridge, 1899). En este trabajo el Profesor BAILEY, que estableció una estación meteorológica el año de 1893 en el volcán de Arequipa, expone los resultados de sus observaciones.

Mapa de la República de Colombia, por L. ROBERLIN, publicado por A. Roger y F. Chernoviez, París, 1899. Este mapa ha sido hecho sobre una escala de 1:2,000,000, con un plano de la ciudad de Bogotá, escala de 1:30,000. Contiene una colección de datos estadísticos.

# BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

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VOL. VIII.

FEVEREIRO DE 1900.

No. 2.

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## COMMERCIO EXTERIOR DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EM 1899.

O commercio exterior dos Estados Unidos durante o anno civil de 1899, ascendeu a \$2,074,345,242, e desta enorme somma mais das tres quintas partes correspondem á exportação, e menos de duas quintas á importação.

Os algarismos exactos publicados pela Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria do Thesouro são os seguintes: Importações, \$798,845,571; exportações, \$1,275,499,671; excesso da exportação sobre a importação, \$476,654,100. O excesso da exportação foi maior que em qualquer dos annos anteriores, fora de 1898, quando subiu a \$620,581,818. Dos artigos exportados as manufacturas apparecem em maior proporção que em qualquer outro anno, emquanto que dos objectos importados os materiaes crús para fabricas estão em maior proporção que antes. Das exportações exclusivamente de productos nacionaes, mais de 30 por cento se compoz de artigos manufacturados, contra 25 por cento em 1898, 26 por cento no anno financeiro de 1897, 23 por cento em 1895, 20 por cento em 1885, 16 por cento em 1879 e 12 por cento em 1860. Das importações 33 por cento foi de artigos em estado crú para empregar-se nas diversas industrias, contra 32 por cento em 1898, 26 por cento em 1895, 24 por cento em 1892, 23 por cento em 1889 e 20 por cento em 1885.

Os productos agricolas constituiram como 62½ por cento da exportação, contra 69 por cento em 1898, 72 por cento em 1894, 74 por cento em 1884 e 83 por cento em 1880. Os productos classificados com este titulo: "Artigos alimenticios e animaes vivos," formaram 28.75 por

cento das importações, contra 29,58 em 1898, 30 por cento em 1896, 31 por cento em 1886 e 34 por cento em 1884.

Um estudo das importações e exportações em 1899, comparadas com as de annos anteriores, offerece alguns pontos de importancia. De 1869 a 1899 as importações se duplicaram e as exportações se quadruplicaram. As importações em 1869 foram por valor de \$438,455,984, e as exportações ascenderam a \$337,375,988, o qual mostra que as importações excederam ás exportações em \$101,079,906, enquanto que em 1899 estas ultimas excederam ás primeiras em \$476,654,100. A proporção relativa entre os artigos que pagaram direitos e os que entraram livres differe notavelmente nos annos de 1869 e 1899. No primeiro sómente admitiram-se livres de direitos artigos por valor de \$21,775,643, enquanto que no segundo os artigos que não pagaram direitos representaram a somma de \$350,813,954.

A exportação de mercadorias estrangeiras reduz-se cada anno em comparação com a exportação do paiz, o qual se deve ao augmento rapido da exportação de productos nacionaes. O valor das mercadorias estrangeiras exportadas em 1899 foi quasi duas vezes maior que em 1869, mas o das exportações de artigos nacionaes em 1899 foi quatro vezes maior que em 1869.

As importações em 1899 foram classificadas como segue:

Artigos alimenticios e animaes.	Livres de direitos.	Gravadas com direitos.	Total.
Artigos em estado crú para uso nas industrias nacionaes.....	\$209, 879, 608	\$57, 614, 351	\$267, 493, 959
Artigos em todo ou parcialmente manufacturados para ser usados como materiaes nas manufacturas e artes mechanicas.....	27, 362, 123	48, 013, 882	75, 376, 905
Artigos manufacturados promptos para o consumo...	10, 660, 390	107, 679, 466	118, 339, 856
Artigos de luxo, etc.....	6, 622, 320	101, 042, 046	107, 664, 366
Total.....	350, 813, 954	448, 031, 617	798, 845, 571

A quantia total dos direitos arrecadados foi de \$224,077,131, contra \$182,810,559 em 1898.

As exportações foram como segue:

Exportações.	Valor.	Por cento.
<b>Nacionaes:</b>		
Productos agricolas.....	\$782, 105, 048	62. 42
Productos das fabricas .....	380, 787, 891	30. 39
Productos das minas .....	33, 279, 187	2. 66
Productos das florestas .....	47, 562, 121	3. 80
Productos das pescarias .....	5, 637, 077	. 45
Productos miscellaneos.....	3, 532, 663	. 28
Total .....	1, 233, 558, 140	100
<b>Estrangeiras:</b>		
Livres de direitos.....	9, 233, 468	42. 26
Gravadas com direitos .....	13, 047, 216	57. 74
Total .....	22, 595, 684	100
Grande total.....	1, 275, 499, 671	.....

As importações e exportações, por paizes, foram como segue nos annos de 1899 e 1898:

	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTAÇÕES.</b>		
Europa .....	\$402,507,267	\$324,726,482
America do Norte .....	123,348,804	97,830,811
America do Sul .....	91,728,862	83,075,415
Asia .....	136,863,919	94,310,501
Oceania .....	32,656,083	26,883,893
Africa .....	11,740,636	8,137,346
<b>EXPORTAÇÕES.</b>		
Europa .....	959,234,520	981,230,370
America do Norte .....	168,854,567	149,114,257
America do Sul .....	37,421,700	35,105,408
Asia .....	53,843,554	46,956,598
Oceania .....	37,542,936	24,981,163
Africa .....	18,602,394	18,111,470

O valor total das importações dos varios paizes da America latina e das exportações para aquellas republicas em 1898, em comparação com o anno anterior, foi como segue:

	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTAÇÕES.</b>		
Mexico .....	\$24,625,000	\$19,650,099
Haiti .....	862,051	839,753
Santo Domingo .....	3,367,958	2,332,170
Costa Rica .....	3,549,468	3,225,401
Guatemala .....	2,197,641	1,598,296
Honduras .....	880,287	923,858
Nicaragua .....	1,594,719	1,179,993
Salvador .....	1,082,964	748,571
Republica Argentina .....	5,997,373	5,569,842
Brazil .....	59,580,868	53,374,743
Chile .....	5,232,702	3,064,972
Colombia .....	5,462,432	4,810,465
Equador .....	1,698,081	1,064,567
Paraguay .....	160	-----
Peru .....	2,096,575	1,121,024
Uruguay .....	1,512,605	1,487,503
Venezuela .....	5,669,925	6,609,919
Total .....	124,810,809	107,651,076
<b>EXPORTAÇÕES.</b>		
Mexico .....	29,309,802	23,113,850
Haiti .....	2,357,562	2,604,307
Santo Domingo .....	1,118,933	1,089,193
Costa Rica .....	1,282,797	1,325,878
Guatemala .....	843,565	1,177,229
Honduras .....	1,038,904	784,020
Nicaragua .....	1,486,352	1,100,767
Salvador .....	634,591	698,146
Republica Argentina .....	11,325,257	8,012,615
Bolivia .....	27,448	36,008
Brazil .....	11,453,997	13,210,959
Chile .....	2,240,104	2,262,375
Colombia .....	2,985,801	2,923,404
Equador .....	1,179,619	819,063
Paraguay .....	11,159	-----
Peru .....	1,395,046	1,383,880
Uruguay .....	1,702,009	1,392,774
Venezuela .....	2,641,390	2,736,726
Total .....	73,034,336	64,671,194

## COMMERCIO DA GRÃ BRETANHA COM OS PAIZES DA AMERICA.

### I.—COMMERCIO COM OS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

O numero do "Monthly Accounts of Trade and Navigation" correspondente ao mez de Dezembro contem informações preliminares relativas ao commercio deste paiz em 1899. Dados detalhados do commercio do Reino Unido, tanto da importação como da exportação, com os varios paizes e as colonias britannicas nos ultimos cinco annos, dão-se na "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom," publicação que não sahirá á luz por algum tempo. Nos quadros dados no "Monthly Accounts," as importações classificam-se geralmente na lista dos paizes de onde foram embarcadas.

Na maioria dos casos o paiz de embarque e o paiz de procedencia são identicos; mas não é sempre assim, pois, em maior ou menor escala, as mercadorias procedentes de um paiz classificam-se na lista do paiz de cujos portos foram reembarcadas. Como o Paraguay e a Bolivia não tem portos de mar, estes paizes não figuram nos quadros estatisticos. As exportações, em geral, classificam-se na lista dos paizes de destino como ficam declarados nas facturas dos exportadores, mas as exportações para os paizes que não tem portos de mar são acreditadas ao paiz em que está situado o porto de descarga. Por exemplo, mercadorias enviadas ao Paraguay são acreditadas ou á Republica Argentina ou ao Uruguay.

No commercio da Grã Bretanha em 1899 houve um augmento consideravel sobre o de 1898. As importações de paizes estrangeiros e das colonias britannicas avaliam-se em £485,075,574 no anno de 1899, contra £470,378,583 em 1898, ou em \$2,360,619,988.88 em 1899, contra \$2,289,097,374.17 em 1898, mostrando um augmento de \$71,522,614.71.

Os productos e manufacturas exportados pela Grã Bretanha e Irlanda montaram a £264,660,647 em 1899 e a £233,359,240 em 1898; as mercadorias exportadas pelas possessões britannicas montaram a £65,019,549 em 1899, contra £60,654,748 em 1898; o valor total das exportações em 1899 foi de £329,680,196, contra £294,013,988 em 1898. Nas exportações para 1899 comprehende-se o valor dos novos navios de registro estrangeiro, que foi de £9,195,192, ou de \$44,748,401.87 em moeda americana. Sem incluir esta verba, o augmento nas exportações montou a \$128,711,199.36.

Nesta connexão é interessante fazer uma comparação das estatisticas do commercio da Grã Bretanha com as dos Estados Unidos durante o ultimo quarto do seculo. As importações da Grã Bretanha em 1875 foram no valor de \$1,319,799,000 e em 1899 haviam subido a \$2,360,620,000; o valor das importações dos Estados Unidos em 1875 foi de \$503,152,936, e de \$798,845,571 em 1899. Em cada anno destes vinte e cinco



annos que se estão comparando, com excepção do de 1888, as exportações dos Estados Unidos excederam ás suas importações, ao passo que no Reino Unido houve um excesso de importações em cada anno deste periodo. No anno de 1875, as exportações dos Estados Unidos excederam ás importações em \$7,794,486, e em 1899 o excesso das exportações sobre as importações montou a \$476,654,100, ao passo que na Grã Bretanha o excesso das importações sobre as exportações montou, em 1875, a \$449,314,000, e em 1899 a \$756,231,315.

O total do commercio de exportação dos Estados Unidos nos vinte e cinco annos de que se trata excedeu ao do commercio de importação em \$3,971,566,000, ao passo que o total da importação da Grã Bretanha durante o mesmo periodo excedeu ao da exportação em \$14,489,004,000. O Reino Unido exportou em 1899 mercadorias nacionaes por valor de \$1,287,971,038.63, contra \$1,135,642,741.46, em 1898 o qual mostra um augmento de \$152,328,297.17. Parece que os metaes e suas manufacturas teem contribuido principalmente para este augmento.

De 1875 a 1899 as exportações nacionaes da Grã Bretanha ascenderam de \$1,087,497,000 a \$1,287,971,000, o qual mostra um augmento de 19 por cento, emquanto que o valor da exportação nacional junto com o da exportação colonial e da de mercadorias importadas de paizes estrangeiros subiu no mesmo periodo de \$1,370,465,000 a \$1,640,388,674, o que mostra um augmento de 20 por cento. A exportação de mercadorias nacionaes dos Estados Unidos augmentou de \$497,263,737 em 1875 a \$1,253,486,000 em 1899, o qual mostra um augmento de 152 por cento. A exportação de mercadorias nacionaes junta com as importadas de paizes estrangeiros montou em 1875 a \$510,947,422, e em 1899 a \$1,275,486,641, mostrando um augmento de 150 por cento.

O valor da importação de todos os paizes americanos, segundo o "Monthly Accounts" correspondente ao mez de Dezembro, foi de \$478,618,012.77 em 1899, e de \$515,488,724.29 em 1898. O valor da exportação para estes paizes foi calculado em \$120,653,367.58 em 1899, contra \$106,961,995.67 em 1898. Desta quantia mais que a metade corresponde a exportação para os Estados Unidos. A maior parte das mercadorias importadas procederam dos Estados Unidos. Nos seguintes quadros dão-se os artigos que a Grã Bretanha importou dos Estados Unidos, assim como os artigos exportados para este paiz:

## IMPORTAÇÃO.

Artigos.	1899.	1898.
Gado.....	£184, 446	£219, 706
Cavallos.....	791, 410	779, 059
Trigo.....	11, 811, 700	15, 394, 706
Farinha de trigo.....	8, 563, 884	9, 470, 433
Cevada.....	572, 321	794, 867
Aveia.....	1, 841, 347	2, 290, 368
Milho.....	8, 105, 167	7, 314, 935
Toucinho.....	6, 552, 180	6, 438, 239
Carne de vacca.....	5, 712, 251	4, 677, 431
Carne de vacca (salgada).....	226, 842	266, 660
Presunto.....	3, 781, 097	3, 651, 414
Carne de porco (salgada).....	199, 850	224, 534

## IMPORTAÇÃO—Continued.

Artigos.	1899.	1898.
Banha .....	£2,909,132	£2,796,308
Todas as outras carnes .....	214,283	156,706
Manteiga .....	704,061	285,309
Queijo .....	1,380,609	1,006,586
Sebo e estearina .....	600,128	538,243
Peixe fumado ou salgado .....	558,580	515,937
Lúpulo .....	587,536	838,074
Assucar refinado .....	9,587	8,212
Linhaça .....	183,976	65,158
Minério de cobre, etc. ....	218,823	315,921
Ferro guza e ferro refinado .....	219,715	180,615
Chumbo em linguados e em chapa .....	475,777	399,257
Algodão em rama .....	19,164,130	27,513,032
Massa de madeira .....	62,922	68,189
Madeira fálqueada .....	808,365	654,604
Madeira serrada .....	1,612,884	1,423,408
Relógios de parede e partes d'elles .....	109,893	91,466
Couros .....	3,362,539	3,036,811
Papel sem imprimir .....	291,304	396,913
Papel impresso .....	36,887	34,956
Petroleo .....	3,437,937	3,023,786
Total .....	85,291,467	94,871,883
Moeda americana .....	\$415,070,924.16	\$461,694,018.62

Houve uma notavel diminuição nas importações de algodão em rama dos Estados Unidos, e parece que essa diminuição não foi contrabalançada por um augmento na importação deste artigo de outros paizes, pois a importação total em 1899 foi de 1,452,039,100 libras, contra 1,900,489,600 em 1898. Isto indicaria ou que a produção das fabricas foi reduzida ou que o *stock* de algodão em rama foi muito inferior ao que é ordinariamente.

O valor da importação de trigo e de farinha de trigo dos Estados Unidos em 1899 foi muito inferior ao da importação destes artigos em 1898, mas parece que a diminuição na importação do trigo se deve em parte ao augmento na importação de trigo da Republica Argentina, Russia e India. Houve um augmento na quantidade de trigo importado dos Estados Unidos, mas o seu valor foi inferior ao para 1898. A quantidade importada em 1899 foi de 1,840,579,600 libras, contra 1,744,589,000 em 1898. A importação total foi de 2,294,570,800 libras em 1899, contra 2,101,710,900 em 1898, o que mostra que a Grã Bretanha recebe a maior parte deste producto dos Estados Unidos.

## EXPORTAÇÃO.

Artigos.	1899.	1898.
Cerveja .....	£173,319	£146,193
Sal .....	85,501	81,146
Bebidas espirituosas .....	186,078	176,505
Manufacturas de algodão .....	1,806,116	1,248,812
Filaça e fazendas em peça de juta .....	343,676	210,399
Filaça e fazendas de linho .....	1,931,053	1,673,341
Fios e manufacturas de seda .....	187,305	162,751
Filaça de lã e de estambre .....	16,004	13,948
Tecidos de lã .....	363,457	286,532
Tecidos de estambre .....	785,597	764,661
Tapetes .....	62,891	.....
Ferragens e cutelaria .....	122,107	253,827
Ferro, inclusive ferro guza .....	459,183	253,822
Aço, sem forjar .....	330,152	250,405

## EXPORTAÇÃO—Continued.

Artigos.	1899.	1898.
Aço manufacturado.....	£83, 472	£85, 537
Chumbo .....	807	1, 178
Estanho, sem trabalhar .....	11, 340	5, 944
Folhas de estanho .....	755, 322	683, 913
Locomotivas e machinismos .....	464, 536	355, 379
Roupa .....	84, 845	77, 000
Productos chimicos .....	336, 851	363, 597
Cimento .....	74, 697	87, 895
Louça de barro e porcelana .....	651, 215	534, 223
Papel (de todas as classes) .....	105, 144	111, 896
Sellins e arreios .....	49, 828	38, 557
Pelless .....	921, 604	709, 173
Algodão .....	1, 329, 080	900, 799
Chá .....	119, 957	146, 646
Lã .....	1, 556, 569	1, 463, 326
Saccos para mercadorias .....	4, 245	2, 303
Total .....	13, 401, 961	10, 965, 042
Moeda americana .....	\$65, 220, 643. 21	\$53, 361, 376. 89

## II.—COMMERCIO COM A AMERICA LATINA.

## MEXICO.

Sem duvida, houve alguma importação do Mexico, ainda que não figura no relatorio preliminar. As exportações para este paiz foram como segue:

Artigos.	1899.	1898.
Tecidos de algodão sem branquear.....	\$10, 813. 36	\$11, 012. 89
Tecidos de algodão branqueados .....	918, 204. 75	922, 883. 06
Tecidos de algodão estampados .....	714, 154. 00	595, 737. 46
Tecidos de algodão tingidos .....	496, 334. 34	412, 761. 93
Fazendas de linho .....	198, 076. 28	200, 353. 81
Ferro para estradas de ferro .....	460, 906. 22	207, 103. 64
Ferro galvanizado .....	377, 046. 69	257, 666. 58
Total .....	3, 175, 595. 64	2, 607, 519. 37

## AMERICA CENTRAL.

As importações da America Central não são classificadas por paizes e dá-se o valor de um só producto—o do café—que foi de \$2,549,598.28 em 1899, contra \$5,307,278.00 em 1898.

Artigos.	1899.	1898.
EXPORTAÇÃO.		
Tecidos de algodão sem branquear.....	\$369, 907. 53	\$333, 885. 70
Tecidos de algodão branqueados .....	406, 907. 53	322, 454. 29
Tecidos de algodão estampados .....	516, 987. 76	301, 727. 87
Tecidos de algodão tingidos .....	244, 741. 15	178, 381. 56
Ferro galvanizado em folhas .....	88, 005. 79	67, 396. 16
Total .....	1, 626, 549. 76	1, 203, 845. 58

## AMERICA DO SUL.

Quanto á America do Sul, o valor da importação e exportação foi como segue:

Paizes.	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTAÇÃO.</b>		
Paizes não especificados .....	\$3,935,368.22	\$4,510,685.85
Republica Argentina .....	46,296,282.68	31,905,820.31
Brazil .....	1,645,509.91	2,443,782.11
Chile .....	7,201,930.89	6,231,416.99
Peru .....	1,918,398.63	3,395,722.04
Total .....	60,997,490.33	48,487,427.30
<b>EXPORTAÇÃO.</b>		
Paizes não especificados .....	5,377,606.53	4,328,396.50
Republica Argentina .....	15,838,471.98	14,277,152.78
Brazil .....	14,824,695.67	18,440,906.03
Chile .....	5,198,582.65	4,178,045.71
Colombia .....	1,850,155.70	2,029,812.29
Peru .....	2,299,333.67	2,197,536.22
Uruguay .....	3,111,111.46	3,020,305.53
Venezuela .....	1,530,621.31	1,317,098.77
Total .....	50,030,578.97	49,789,253.83

Nos seguintes quadros são especificadas as importações e exportações. De alguns dos paizes não houve importações:

## REPUBLICA ARGENTINA.

Artigos.	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTAÇÃO.</b>		
Gado .....	\$6,777,083.03	\$6,575,926.26
Carneiros e lampadas .....	2,912,288.79	3,101,848.70
Carne de carneiro fresca .....	7,251,892.84	6,608,346.88
Sebo e estearina .....	747,197.54	868,485.32
Trigo .....	17,626,769.59	8,535,373.82
Milho .....	7,782,441.56	3,507,953.26
Linhaça .....	2,983,962.61	2,158,618.81
Couroes verdes .....	214,646.72	549,267.26
Total .....	46,296,282.68	31,905,820.31
<b>EXPORTAÇÃO.</b>		
Tecidos de algodão sem branquear .....	740,326.05	895,231.61
Tecidos de algodão branqueados .....	1,898,577.38	2,082,798.74
Tecidos de algodão estampados .....	2,233,820.83	1,880,177.14
Tecidos de algodão tingidos .....	1,786,574.88	1,343,426.52
Tecidos de juta .....	1,641,037.33	1,005,501.63
Tecidos de linho .....	249,996.97	215,581.09
Tecidos de lã .....	720,251.73	749,621.06
Tecidos de estambre .....	1,492,156.50	1,210,566.21
Tapetes .....	271,010.52	206,573.19
Ferragens .....	162,687.10	159,319.48
Cutalaria .....	83,295.01	78,160.86
Ferro para vias ferreas .....	642,193.07	1,269,781.78
Ferro galvanizado em folhas .....	1,378,708.65	1,086,718.65
Ferro de todas as outras classes .....	1,941,543.71	1,540,991.82
Estante em chapas e folhas .....	226,881.10	241,164.27
Cimento .....	143,459.55	151,791.00
Porcelana e louça de barro .....	225,951.60	159,747.73
Total .....	15,838,471.98	14,277,152.78

O numero de *bushels* de trigo de 60 libras importados da Republica Argentina em 1899 foi de 18,947,667, contra 6,639,000 *bushels* em 1898 e 1,555,167 *bushels* em 1897.

## BRAZIL.

Artigos.	1899.	1898.
IMPORTAÇÃO.		
Assucar sem refinar.....	\$310,721.16	\$1,021,147.43
Café.....	706,469.81	828,156.64
Algodão em rama.....	472,517.68	476,392.42
Couros verdes.....	155,791.26	118,085.62
Total.....	1,645,509.91	2,443,782.11
EXPORTAÇÃO.		
Carvão de pedra, coke, etc.....	3,016,801.75	2,952,500.67
Tecidos de algodão sem branquear.....	254,127.72	398,804.81
Tecidos de algodão branqueados.....	1,481,917.38	2,317,806.89
Tecidos de algodão estampados.....	2,930,036.92	4,667,611.01
Tecidos de algodão tingidos.....	1,948,011.29	2,118,294.72
Tecidos de juta.....	112,323.69	344,840.19
Filão de juta.....	1,030,505.71	1,074,469.67
Tecidos de linho.....	341,870.38	380,133.58
Tecidos de lã.....	384,847.69	473,588.31
Tecidos de estambre.....	594,102.32	681,305.13
Manufaturas de cobre.....	249,724.45	256,852.80
Ferragens.....	170,736.29	148,914.90
Cutelaria.....	200,100.75	182,162.83
Ferro para vias ferreas.....	454,462.97	693,140.46
Ferro galvanizado em folhas.....	227,552.20	241,139.94
Aço manufacturado.....	169,067.08	206,762.99
Estanho em chapas e folhas.....	347,828.22	312,117.84
Calçado.....	230,212.81	355,638.96
Cimento.....	166,210.44	141,576.22
Louça de barro e porcelana.....	204,321.05	283,142.70
Óleo de sementes.....	211,444.56	210,101.41
Total.....	14,824,695.67	18,440,906.03

## CHILE.

Artigos.	1899.	1898.
IMPORTAÇÃO.		
Trigo.....	\$413,321.58	\$1,607,171.36
Miúrio de cobre.....	2,013,392.71	974,988.68
Regulo e precipitado de cobre.....	790,553.19	594,642.50
Cobre em parte forjado e cobre sem forjar.....	3,984,663.41	3,054,614.45
Total.....	7,201,930.89	6,231,416.99
EXPORTAÇÃO.		
Tecidos de algodão sem branquear.....	435,585.82	332,016.96
Tecidos de algodão branqueados.....	884,447.44	843,875.43
Tecidos de algodão estampados.....	831,718.92	576,412.59
Tecidos de algodão tingidos.....	834,560.95	505,264.36
Tecidos de lã.....	460,200.57	400,259.89
Tecidos de estambre.....	500,524.39	301,080.62
Tapetes.....	127,818.62	89,436.54
Ferragens.....	36,617.97	49,287.91
Cutelaria.....	34,839.27	32,050.77
Ferro para vias ferreas.....	256,245.56	29,753.78
Ferro galvanizado.....	272,241.74	264,182.82
Outras manufacturas de ferro.....	523,781.40	454,424.04
Total.....	5,198,582.65	4,178,045.71

Quanto aos adubos, o referido periodico mostra que a importação de nitrato em 1899 foi de 140,851 toneladas, contra 130,327 toneladas em 1898. O valor deste producto nos annos comparados foi de \$5,206,040.57 e \$4,734,136.07, respectivamente. Como a maior parte deste producto foi importada do Chile, essas sommas devem ser juntas ás importações totaes dos ditos annos.

## COLOMBIA.

Artigos.	1899.	1898.
EXPORTAÇÃO.		
Tecidos de algodão sem branquear .....	\$130, 504.93	\$149, 902.80
Tecidos de algodão branqueados .....	596, 462.57	620, 916.74
Tecidos de algodão estampados .....	679, 733.25	764, 984.60
Tecidos de algodão tingidos .....	329, 145.73	349, 473.10
Tecidos de linho .....	114, 309.22	144, 535.05
Total .....	1, 850, 155.70	2, 029, 812.29

## PERU.

IMPORTAÇÃO.		
Assucar sem refinar .....	\$909, 256.86	\$2, 496, 874.62
Lã de alpaca de vicunha e lhama .....	1, 009, 141.77	898, 847.42
Total .....	1, 918, 398.63	3, 395, 722.04
EXPORTAÇÃO.		
Tecidos de algodão sem branquear .....	146, 734.71	233, 025.38
Tecidos de algodão branqueados .....	509, 357.09	510, 286.59
Tecidos de algodão estampados .....	641, 102.98	536, 497.56
Tecidos de algodão tingidos .....	387, 042.48	372, 496.51
Tecidos de lã .....	319, 403.00	253, 009.35
Tecidos de estambre .....	167, 052.35	164, 909.48
Ferro e aço para vias ferreas .....	21, 242.27	21, 106.00
Outras manufacturas de ferro .....	107, 398.79	101, 145.35
Total .....	2, 299, 333.67	2, 197, 536.22

## URUGUAY.

EXPORTAÇÃO.		
Tecidos de algodão sem branquear .....	\$234, 752.03	\$317, 315.27
Tecidos de algodão branqueados .....	615, 884.77	626, 975.53
Tecidos de algodão estampados .....	727, 867.81	654, 471.25
Tecidos de algodão tingidos .....	572, 971.98	582, 218.33
Tecidos de lã .....	196, 314.61	220, 282.12
Tecidos de estambre .....	420, 942.52	334, 942.52
Ferro para vias ferreas .....	29, 880.31	35, 384.32
Ferro galvanizado .....	214, 812.18	179, 719.85
Ferro em barras .....	97, 685.25	69, 877.97
Total .....	3, 111, 111.46	3, 020, 305.53

## VENEZUELA.

EXPORTAÇÃO.		
Tecidos de algodão sem branquear .....	\$72, 345.39	\$79, 708.54
Tecidos de algodão branqueados .....	560, 226.61	524, 681.70
Tecidos de algodão estampados .....	551, 934.10	520, 525.71
Tecidos de algodão tingidos .....	346, 115.21	192, 187.82
Total .....	1, 530, 621.31	1, 317, 098.77

## OS ESTADOS UNIDOS COMO UM FORNECEDOR DE CARVÃO DE PEDRA.

Parece que as nações da Europa dependem dos Estados Unidos para os supprimentos de carvão de pedra no futuro, e que este paiz e não a Inglaterra será, em tempo não muito longe, o fornecedor de carvão para o mundo. Por muitos annos a Inglaterra tem tido o monopolio do supprimento de carvão ás nações do mundo que não produzem este producto ou ás cuja produção de carvão é insufficiente. Mas ultimamente, e especialmente desde que rebentou a guerra do Transvaal, a Inglaterra não só não tem podido enviar ao continente os seus carregamentos ordinarios, mas tem descoberto que apenas produz carvão sufficiente para as exigencias do mercado domestico. Informações recebidas de muitas fontes confirmam o facto de que ha falta de carvão em differentes paizes do Velho Mundo, especialmente nos da Europa, e que em toda a parte o preço do carvão vai augmentando-se.

Com effeito, o preço do carvão tem augmentado substancialmente, mesmo nos Estâdos Unidos, onde existem immensas quantidades de carvão e milhares de geiras de terrenos de carvão que ainda não teem sido explorados. A alta do preço nos Estados Unidos se deve em parte ao grande augmento havido na produção das fabricas, mas a causa principal do augmento é a difficuldade de transportes. É difficil obter os carregamentos de carvão; o material rodante de todos os caminhos de ferro é insufficiente para fazer os transportes e por conseguinte os preços de frete teem sido augmentados. Os salarios tambem são maiores. A produção de carvão nos Estados Unidos nunca foi maior que é hoje, mas ha grande falta de carros para seu transporte.

O Consul-geral da Grã Bretanha em Hamburgo, n'um relatorio que dirigio ultimamente ao seu Governo sobre a importação do carvão naquelle porto, diz:

“A attenção dos importadores allemães, como os de outras nacionalidades, tem sido dirigida ultimamente ás oportunidades offerecidas para a importação de carvão americano. Diz-se que quantidades consideraveis de carvão americano já são enviadas annualmente para certos portos do Mediterraneo que outr'ora receberam seus supprimentos de carvão de Galles e Newcastle.”

M. BRETON, Deputado pelo Departamento de Cher, recentemente introduziu na Camara de Deputados da França um projecto de lei propondo a suspensão temporaria dos direitos aduaneiros sobre o carvão, por motivo dos enormes prejuizos que estão soffrendo as industrias francezas pelos altos preços deste combustivel naquelle paiz.

Um escriptor europeó sobre a economia politica disse recentemente: “Felizmente a Inglaterra não tem o monopolio da produção de carvão. Os Estados Unidos produzem agora, na media, 197,000,000 de toneladas,

ou quasi a mesma quantidade que a Grã Bretanha. As minas de carvão dos Estados Unidos podem fazer concorrência com as da Inglaterra, quanto ao baixo preço do producto. Da America temos de depender para fazer lucta aos effeitos desastrosos da crise industrial produzida na França pelo augmento no preço do carvão inglez." Essas observações dos escriptores sobre assumptos economicos da Europa, e especialmente da França, teem attrahido para o assumpto a attenção dos periodicos technicos inglezes, como se evidencia n'um artigo recentemente publica—do no "Statist" de Londres, que admite que "A America será no proximo futuro o nosso competidor mais activo no commercio de carvão do mundo."

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## O SYSTEMA METRICO.

A agitação pela adopção por parte dos Estados Unidos do systema metrico decimal conta com o apoio do Secretario da Fazenda, o Honrado LYMAN J. GAGE, quem em seu ultimo relatorio sobre a condição economica do paiz chama a attenção do Congresso á conveniencia de fazer o systema metrico dos Estados Unidos igual ao que tem sido adoptado pelo Mexico, as republicas da America Central e do Sul, as Ilhas Philippinas, Porto Rico e outros paizes. O Secretario GAGE faz notar que a immensa rivalidade commercial entre as nações deveria ser motivo para que o Congresso adoptasse o systema metrico decimal, como um meio de facilitar mais o commercio exterior, e accrescenta que os Estados Unidos teem-se compromettido já a dar esse passo.

Até hoje a principal razão que se apresentava em favor do dito systema era sua maior simplicidade comparado com os outros; mas ha outros argumentos mais poderosos para sustental-o, sendo um delles a conveniencia de evitar a confusão e incerteza que resulta da existencia de duas classes ou mais de libras, de duas classes de toneladas, duas classes de gallões, etc. O systema metrico decimal em quanto a pesos e medidas poria termo a esta confusão.

Ainda que os fabricantes e engenheiros dos Estados Unidos não se teem decidido todavia em favor da adopção immediata do systema em referencia, não ha duvida que cada dia se manifesta com mais força em seu favor o sentimento publico. Na Allemanha se effectuou ha trinta annos com a maior facilidade a substituição do systema antigo com o novo, e outro tanto poderia fazer-se sem grande difficuldade nos Estados Unidos.

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## ESTADOS UNIDOS.

### ENTRADAS DE CAFÉ DE QUALIDADE SUPERIOR EM 1899.

As estatisticas compiladas por uma firma de Nova York sobre as entradas de café de qualidade superior nos Estados Unidos no anno de 1899 mostram que houve um augmento nas entradas de café de Saba-



nilla de 16,044 saccas sobre as do anno anterior. O augmento nas outras entradas de café de qualidade suave foi de 49,093 saccas, das quaes 15,448 representam o augmento havido no importação do café do Mexico, 28,166 saccas de La Guayra, 870 saccas de Coro e 4,609 saccas de Jamaica. As entradas de café de Maracaibo, comparadas com as de 1898, mostram uma diminuição de 96,677 saccas. As entradas totaes de café de todas as classes, comparadas com as de 1898, mostram uma diminuição de 2,318 saccas. As entradas de café foram como segue:

	1899.	1898.
	<i>Saccas.</i>	<i>Saccas.</i>
Maracaibo.....	329,507	426,184
Sabanilla.....	208,271	192,227
America Central.....	78,126	165,517
Mexico.....	141,244	125,796
La Guayra.....	73,288	45,122
Coro.....	7,915	7,145
Jamaica.....	29,749	25,140
Costa Rica.....	116,713	-----
Total .....	984,813	987,131

Em 1898 as entradas de café de Costa Rica classificaram-se na lista da America Central, mas em 1899 o café de Costa Rica foi classificado separadamente.

#### IMMIGRAÇÃO NO PORTO DE NOVA YORK.

O commissario da immigração no porto de Nova York tem acabado as tabellas estatisticas da immigração para o anno de 1899, e os algarismos mostram que entraram no anno passado maior numero de immigrants que em qualquer anno desde 1893. Passageiros de terceira classe no numero de 303,762 chegaram a Nova York em vapores pertencentes a dezeseis diferentes companhias. Vieram dos seguintes portos: Portos do Mediterraneo, 66,316; Bremen, 53,646; Liverpool, 46,061; Hamburgo, 41,787; Havre, 22,883; Antuerpia, 29,126; Rotterdam, 17,219; Southampton, 11,341; Glasgow, 6,759; Copenhagen, 3,465; Porto, 1,515; Lisboa, 1,369; Amsterdam, 892; outros portos, 351. O augmento da immigração de 1899 sobre a de 1898 foi de 84,111.

#### PRODUÇÃO DO ASSUCAR DE BETERRABA.

A produção do assucar de beterraba nos Estados Unidos em 1899 foi de 95,000 toneladas, contra 40,000 toneladas no anno anterior, produção essa que foi attingida depois da cultura deste producto por um quarto de seculo. Si o Estado da California não tivesse soffrido a desvantagem de uma secca, a produção total teria excedido a 100,000 toneladas. O assucar das fabricas de Illinois e Michigan tem-se tornado um factor nos mercados do Oeste. Ha um projecto para a construção, em 1900, de tres novas fabricas na costa do Pacifico. A "Golden Gate Beet Sugar Company" comprou, ha pouco, 1,000 geiras de terra na

California que é excellentemente adaptada ao cultivo da beterraba e propõe-se apressar com vigor esta industria. Essa companhia está sob a direcção de capitalistas de São Francisco. Outra fabrica vai ser construida em Los Angelos e outra ainda na vizinhança de Las Vegas, Novo Mexico.

### O MAIOR DIQUE FLUCTUANTE DO MUNDO.

O dique fluctuante que se está actualmente construindo no porto de Nova Orleans para o Governo dos Estados Unidos em Alger, será o maior dique desta classe do mundo. Poderá levantar qualquer navio já construido ou que se está construindo. Tem 525 pés de comprimento, 100 pés de largura entre as paredes e 20 pés de fundo, e poderá levantar 18,000 toneladas em tres horas e meia. Seu custo total será mais de \$1,000,000, e espera-se que será concluido no outono de 1900.

### CALCULOS DEFINITIVOS DAS COLHEITAS PARA 1899.

O Director da Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria da Agricultura dos Estados Unidos tem publicado seus calculos definitivos relativos ás colheitas de 1899. Os valores são calculados sobre os preços médios dos productos obtidos nos terrenos de producção.

Segundo os calculos officiaes, a extensão de terreno dedicado ao cultivo do trigo foi de 44,592,516 geiras. A producção foi de 547,303,846 alqueires, no valor de \$319,545,259. A producção média por geira foi de 12.3 alqueires e o preço médio 58.4 centavos.

Quanto ao milho, a extensão de terreno em cultivo foi de 82,108,387 e sua producção 2,078,143,933 alqueires. O valor deste producto foi de \$629,210,110, sendo 25.3 alqueires sua producção média por geira, e 30.3 centavos o preço médio por geira.

A producção de aveia foi de 796,177,713 alqueires, no valor de \$198,167,975. A extensão de terreno dedicado a este cultivo foi de 26,341,380 geiras. A producção média por geira foi de 30.02 alqueires e o preço médio 24.9 centavos. Calcula-se em 73,381,563 alqueires a colheita de cevada; em 23,961,741 alqueires a de centeio; em 11,094,473 alqueires a colheita do trigo mourisco; em 228,783,232 alqueires a de batatas, e em 56,653,766 toneladas a de feno.

### QUANTIA TOTAL E POR CABEÇA DA MOEDA CIRCULANTE.

A quantia de moeda em circulação no dia 1º de Janeiro de 1900 foi de \$1,980,398,170, quantia que jamais se tem attingido. No dia 1º de Fevereiro tinha ascendido a \$2,033,149,355, o que mostra um augmento de cerca de \$23,000,000. Para este grande augmento da circulação tem contribuido o systema adoptado pelo Thesouro de transferir para os bancos uma quantia de moeda que alias ficaria fechada nos cofres do Thesouro. Calculando-se a população em 77,116,000, a circulação por cabeça tem ascendido a \$25.98.

Um facto notavel da circulação é que a metade da moeda circulante consiste em moeda de ouro ou em notas de ouro garantidas por moeda

de ouro guardada no Thesouro. A importancia da moeda de ouro em circulação no dia 1º de Fevereiro foi de \$619,447,176, e a das notas de ouro em circulação foi de \$184,882,889. O total da moeda de ouro no paiz no dia 1º de Janeiro era de \$1,016,009,877 e em 1º de Fevereiro havia ascendido a \$1,022,943,682. O ouro hoje constitue a maior verba da circulação, occupando o segundo lugar as notas de prata no valor de \$396,519,045, seguindo lhes os bilhetes dos Estados Unidos no valor de \$317,500,312 e os bilhetes dos bancos nacionaes no valor de \$240,885,761. Os dollares de prata começam a desaparecer da circulação. A importancia delles em circulação no dia 1º de Janeiro era de \$70,420,047, e o 1º de Fevereiro havia baixado a \$67,888,019.

#### ESTATISTICA DO GADO.

O periodico "Orange Judd Farmer," no seu relatorio annual sobre o gado, diz o que segue:

Houve um augmento no numero dos animaes domesticos de todas as classes nos Estados Unidos, comparado com o anno passado, com excepção das mulas. Tambem houve um augmento consideravel no preço médio por cabeça de todas as classes de animaes. As estatisticas mostram que não só tem sido restabelecida esta industria, mas o valor total de todos os animaes domesticos excede hoje ao do qualquer anno anterior.

O valor total dos animaes domesticos em Janeiro de 1896 baixou a \$1,860,420,000, que é o valor mais baixo que se tem attingido. O valor total em 1899 foi calculado em \$2,558,111,000. O augmento do valor no anno passado foi o maior que se tem havido em qualquer anno desde que o valor começou a subir, montando a \$343,058,000.

O numero de cavallos é calculado em 14,886,000, ou um augmento de 0.5 por cento sobre o do anno passado; o de mulas, em 2,240,000, ou uma diminuição de 1.2 por cento; gado vaccum em 19,308,000, ou um augmento de 2.1 por cento; outro gado em 32,075,000, ou um augmento de 1.3 por cento; carneiros em 42,820,000, e porcos em 49,242,000, ou um augmento de 0.6 por cento.

O augmento no preço médio por cabeça sobre o preço mais baixo da depressão foi de 36 por cento para os cavallos, 23 por cento para as mulas, 50 para as vaccas, 76 para outro gado, 86 para carneiros e 21 para porcos. Só os preços de gado vaccum e de carneiros por cabeça teem excedido aos de annos anteriores.

#### A PRODUÇÃO DO PETROLEO NO ESTADO DA CALIFORNIA.

A industria do petroleo no Estado da California está attrahindo a attenção por motivo do seu grande desenvolvimento. Na actualidade a produção ascende a 15,000 barris por dia, ou perto de 6,000,000 barris por anno. Isto dá um rendimento aos productores de \$7,000,000 a \$8,000,000 annualmente. O valor da produção do ouro na California é apenas mais que o dobro desta quantia.

**DESCOBRIMENTO DE DEPOSITOS DE PLATINA.**

Um mineiro da California que tem feito explorações nas costas da Disenchantment Bay declara que tem descoberto platina. O *stock* universal deste mineral não basta presentemente para as exigencias de consumo. Este metal encontra-se, em combinação com o ouro, a 45 milhas ao noroeste de Sitka. Os depositos de platina são, porem, os mais valiosos.

**UMA NOVA FABRICA.**

Uma nova fabrica de aço tem sido estabelecida em Birmingham, Alabama, pela "Steel and Shipping Company" de Alabama. A produção da fabrica é de umas 1,000 toneladas por dia, das quaes 600 toneladas serão usadas na fabrica de varetas de aço, de arame e pregos, que é propriedade da "Alabama Steel and Wire Company." O resto será consumido no paiz e uma parte consideravel exportada. A fabrica de varetas tambem exportará em grandes quantidades, empregando-se machinss especiaes para fabricar os tamanhos e formas appropriados ao commercio de exportação. As duas fabricas representam uma somma superior a \$3,000,000.

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**SALVADOR.****FRANQUIA DE PORTE CONCEDIDA ÀS PUBLICAÇÕES DA SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS.**

N'uma communicação dirigida á esta Secretaria, datada de San José, Costa Rica, 12 de Janeiro de 1900, o Honorado WILLIAM LAURENCE MERRY, Ministro dos Estados Unidos junto ao Governo de Costa Rica, Nicaragua e Salvador, diz o que segue:

"Tenho o prazer de communicar-vos que em data de 28 de Dezembro de 1899 o Ministro de Relações Exteriores da Republica do Salvador me avisou que se tinham dado ordens ás auctoridades postaes para que se concedam privilegios de franqueamento a todas as publicações da Secretaria das Republicas Americanas."

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**BIBLIOGRAPHIA.**

Nesta secção do Boletim Mensal se tratará dos livros e folhetos enviados á Secretaria das Republicas Americanas que se referem a assumptos de interesse aos paizes da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

"Voyage entre Tocantíns et Xingú, 3 avril 1898-3 novembre 1898" (Viagem entre Tocantíns e Xingú, de 3 de Abril até 3 de Novembro de 1898) por HENRY COUDREAU, com 78 illustrações e 15 mappas, Pariz, 1899. Este trabalho é uma relação de uma viagem ao longo dos

rios que desembocam na bahia de Marajó, e dos outros muitos que existem naquella região, passando d'alli ao Amazonas. Até hoje o dito territorio havia sido *terra incognita*. O descobrimento geographico mais notavel que se fez durante a viagem é o Rio Anapú, o principal n'aquella parte do paiz. Este rio não é o que apparece no mappa de STIELER com o nome de Uanapu, mas o Jacitara, que corre do norte a sul pelo meridiano 54 oeste de Pariz, e que se suppõe tributario de tres bahias, as que AZEVEDOSCH, que é a autoridade em que se funda o mappa de STIELER, chama bahias de Camoim, de Cachnana e de Pracupy.

A esta ultima COUDREAU dá o nome de Bahia dos Botos. Segundo elle, estas bahias devem ser vistas como alargamentos do Anapú, que se estreita quando chega a 1° 40' de latitude sul, e corre depois para o sudeste, formando o limite septentrional da ilha de Pacajahy. Por ultimo, desemboca na bahia de Portel, ao norte do Pacajá. As fontes do Anapú são o Carupuhy e o Tuere. Um affluente importante do Anapú é o Pracuru, que desemboca na Bahia dos Botos. O Uanapu que apparece no mappa de STIELER é o mesmo Pacaja de que falla COUDREAU, cujo tributario, o Camaraipy, é realmente o Pacaja do dito mappa.

Quatorze rios foram explorados, dos quaes sómente dous teem apparecido até agora nos mappas. Tambem foram examinados dez canaes, e destes dous eram inteiramente desconhecidos antes. Seis lagos foram descobertos. Quasi toda aquella região está coberta de mattas virgens, mas em algumas partes existem prados. Crê COUDREAU que é possivel vencer os perigos que apresenta o clima e que seria conveniente estabelecer alli colonias europeas, e abriga muitas esperanças a este respeito. Na actualidade aquelle territorio está pouco habitado. Os habitantes dedicam-se ao cultivo do cacáo e a borracha. Ha todavia alguns indios n'aquella parte do Brazil, mas a tribu dos Peuas, que ha trinta annos existia alli, parece que tem desaparecido. As illustrações que o livro contem dão uma boa idea daquella região.

Os ultimos numeros do "Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin" (Sociedade Geographica de Berlim), que teem chegado ultimamente a bibliotheca desta Secretaria, conteem artigos muito interessantes sobre alguns dos paizes americanos. Entre elles ha a descripção de uma viagem do Dr. EDWARD SEELER no Mexico (Vol. XXIII, 1896, No. 3), e de outro que o mesmo cavalheiro fez em Guatemala (Vol. XXIV, 1897, No. 7). Tambem se publicam varias cartas relativas a investigações que o Dr. CARL SAPPER fez em Honduras e outras partes da America Central (Vol. XXIV, 1897, No. 7; Vol. XXV, 1898, Nos. 5-6). Apparece assim mesmo um importante artigo de WILHELM SIEVERS (Vol. XXXIII, 1898, No. 5), preparado com noticias que sobre Santo Domingo deixou RICHARD LUDWIG, quem morreu

antes de poder publicar o resultado de suas investigações. Ha um mappa da parte central de Haiti annexo ao artigo.

“Die Insel Haiti” (a Ilha de Haiti), por L. GENTIL TIPPENHAUER e F. A. BROCKHAUS, Leipzig, 1893. Este importante livro tem sido obtido ultimamente pela bibliotheca da Secretaria. Seu autor tem sido por muitos annos conhecido como escriptor sobre assumptos que se referem a Haiti, especialmente sobre as formações geologicas da ilha, onde nasceu. Diz que o que tem em vista ao publicar esta obra em allemão é dar a conhecer as condições do paiz afim de que os estrangeiros se interessem n'elle. A obra está dividida em tres partes, e contem numerosos detalhes cuidadosamente obtidos, referentes á historia, clima condições physicas, commercio, industria. etc. O escriptor faz uma analyse critica da população, o idioma, a religião e as instituições politicas e sociaes. O livro contem 693 paginas e numerosas illustrações. Tem cartas geologicas e quadros estatisticos assim como uma relação bibliographica desde o anno de 1500 até a data.

“Note sur les gisements d'or du Mexique” (Noticia sobre os depositos de ouro no Mexico), por EZEQUIEL ORDÓÑEZ, Mexico, 1898, publicada nas “Memorias da Sociedade Scientifica ‘Antonio Alzate,’” XI. O autor desta ligeira noticia sobre a producção de ouro no Mexico está preparando um trabalho mais serio sobre este particular. A producção do dito metal tem augmentado consideravelmente durante a ultima decada. No anno economico de 1886-87 se exportaram 418.63 kilogrammas de ouro, emquanto que no anno economico de 1896-97 a exportação ascendeu a 10,409.53 kilogrammas. O augmento deve-se principalmente a que tem melhorado muito o beneficio do mineral de prata, no qual se encontra ouro, pois sómente uma pequena quantidade deste metal se extrae dos depositos de ouro, propriamente fallando.

“Die Deutsche Kolonie Halsa in Südbrasilien” (A colonia allemã de Hansa no sul do Brazil), por FRANZ GIESEBRECHT. Segunda edição publicada por Hermann Paetel, Berlim, 1899. O autor tem-se occupado na investigação de assumptos concernentes ás colonias allemãs e á questão de immigração allemã. Pensa que a Africa allemã não deve ser tomada em consideração ao tratar-se deste particular, com excepção talvez da parte sudoeste, e affirma que a Allemanha não deve perder de vista, em connexão com a sua politica colonial, tudo que se relaciona com a questão de emigração. Diz que não ha muitos paizes em que podem estabelecer-se colonos allemaes sem perda para a mãi patria, e que são menos ainda aquelles cujo desenvolvimento por meio de elementos allemães podessê ser util á Allemanha.

Crê Mr. GIESEBRECHT que a America do Sul offerece as melhores condições para o estabelecimento de emigrantes allemães. Não são, todavia, todos os paizes daquelle continente os que offerecem as ditas

condições. O Brazil é a Republica que apresenta melhor campo para a colonização, e por este motivo o autor lhe dedica especial attenção.

No periodo de quinze annos um colono allemão pode chegar naquelle paiz a ser dono de uma fazenda que lhe produza mais do necessario para elle e sua familia. Ha 400,000 allemães estabelecidos no sul do Brazil, e poderiam estabelecer-se mais 100,000.

O autor chama a attenção ao facto de que os allemães teem conservado sua lingua e costumes e que os transmittem a seus descendentes, o que faz que permaneçam fieis á mãe patria.

“Rapport préliminaire sur une expedition geologique dans la région andine située entre Las Lajas, Argentine, et Curacantin, Chile” (Relatorio preliminar da expedição geologica á região andina entre Las Lajas, Republica Argentina, e Curacantin, Chile), por C. BURCKHARDT, publicado na Revista do Muséu da Prata, IX, 1898. O autor deste trabalho fez uma viagem de exploração muito penosa, mas que deu muito bons resultados, ao longo do territorio entre o Chile e a Republica Argentina. Fez observações topographicas e geologicas, começando na parte occidental da cadeia de montanhas de Vaca Muerta e da parte septentrional de Las Lajas. O resultado desta expedição é de grande valor scientifico. A obra contem varios mappas e illustrações.

“Notice sur le territoire compris entre Pisagua et Antofagasta, avec la region des hauts plateaux Boliviens” (Noticias relativas ao territorio comprehendido entre Pisagua e Antofagasta, assim como a região das altas mesas de Bolivia), por LATRILLE ROCH (Boletim da Sociedade Geographica de Pariz, 1899). O mappa do territorio entre Pisagua e Antofagasta que acompanha a esta obra contem detalhes minuciosos. Ha outros dous, um em que se expõe a estrada de ferro de Pisagua a Iquique e o outro que representa um estudo do paiz entre Ollagua, Potosí e Tupiza. A obra trata destes mappas e especialmente dos rios e outras agnas que existem na parte do territorio boliviano que os ditos mappas abrangem.

Estes ultimos, sem embargo, teem augmentado consideravelmente. Devido ás difficuldades de communicações os ditos depositos são de pouca importancia, e até que se tenham vencido aquellas, Mexico não occupará a posição que lhe corresponde como paiz productor de ouro. As principaes minas deste metal encontram-se nos Estados de Sonora, Sinaloa, Jalisco, Durango e nos Territorios de Baixa California e Tepic, assim como na cadeia de montanhas que pode considerar-se como uma extensão da Serra Nevada. É provavel que estes depositos de ouro datam da mesma epocha que os que se encontram na dita Serra, ainda que não são tão grandes como os que se teem descoberto nos Estados Unidos.

“Report on the navigability of the eastern rivers of Peru” (Relatorio sobre os rios navegaveis na parte oriental do Peru), por MELITON

CARVAJAL, Lima. Publicado por Pedro Lira em 1896. Este interessante relatorio contem um mappa e abrange todo o territorio comprehendido desde o equador até os 14° de latitude sul, e desde a costa do Pacifico até a desembocadura do Rio Madeira no Amazonas. O Rio Madidi apparece como o limite oriental do Peru. Tambem se vêem no mappa todos os outros rios de importancia, e por meio de ancoras de côr vermelha se marcam no mappa os pontos até onde os mencionados rios são navegaveis.

“El Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Lima,” No. 3, 1898, contem noticias importantes relativas ao Peru, por ANTONIO RAIMONDIS, assim como dados interessantes sobre a flora, a fauna e os mineraes do paiz, pelo Sr. Don NEMESIO A. RAEZ. Ha tambem uma relação referente aos terremotos e erupções volcanicas que se têm tido lugar desde a epocha da conquista até o anno de 1806. Esta relação continuará publicandose nos numeros vindouros do Boletim. Tambem contem a mencionada publicação observações meteorologicas feitas em Calláo desde o mez de Outubro até o de Dezembro de 1898.

“Rio Grande do Sul,” por GUSTAV KÖNIGSWALD (D. Reimer, Berlim, 1898). O autor desta obra residiu doze annos no Brazil e durante este periodo fez muitas viagens no paiz. Seu trabalho é o resultado de cuidadoso estudo. Dá-se nelle uma descripção completa do Estado, seu solo, mineraes, clima, vegetação, etc., e ha capitulos dedicados á colonização, agricultura, historia, estatistica e outros pontos importantes.

“Meine Reise nach den deutschen Kolonien in Rio Grande do Sul” (Viagem ás colonias allemãs do Rio Grande do Sul), por HERMAN MYER. Publicado por Carl Meyers Graphisches Institut, Leipzig, 1899. Este trabalho é uma excellente descripção do districto colonial do Rio Grande do Sul. É, sobretudo, muito interessante a relação que o autor faz das vias ferreas construidas e projectadas.

Observações meteorologicas no Peru, 1889-1890, por SOLAN J. BAILEY (Relatorio Annual do Observatorio Astronomico da Universidade de Harvard, Cambridge, 1899). Neste trabalho o Professor BAILEY, que estabeleceu uma estação meteorologica no anno de 1893 no volcão de Arequipa, dá os resultados de suas observações.

Mappa da Republica de Colombia, por L. ROBERLIN, publicado por A. Roger e F. Chernoviez, Pariz, 1899. Este mappa tem sido feito sobre uma escala de 1:2,000,000, com um plano da cidade de Bogotá, escala de 1:30,000. Contem uma collecção de dados estatisticos.



# BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

## BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

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VOL. VIII.

FÉVRIER 1900.

No. 2.

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### COMMERCE EXTÉRIEUR DES ÉTATS-UNIS EN 1899.

Le commerce extérieur des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899 s'est monté à \$2,074,345,242, les exportations étant comprises dans cette somme énorme pour plus des trois-cinquièmes et les importations pour moins des deux-cinquièmes.

Voici les chiffres exacts tels qu'ils ont été publiés par le Bureau des Statistiques du Ministère des Finances: Importations, \$798,845,571; exportations, \$1,275,499,671, soit un excédent d'exportations sur les importations de \$476,654,100, le plus fort qui ait jamais été constaté dans n'importe quelle année précédente, à l'exception de l'année 1898 quand cet excédent atteignait la somme de \$620,581,818. Les manufactures représentent, dans les exportations, la plus grande proportion qui ait jamais été constatée dans n'importe quelle autre année, tandis que les matières brutes employées dans les manufactures sont représentées dans les importations par une quantité plus grande que jamais. Parmi les produits du pays qui ont été exportés, plus de 30 pour cent provenaient des manufactures, au lieu de 25 pour cent en 1898, 26 pour cent pendant l'année fiscale 1897, 23 pour cent en 1895, 20 pour cent en 1885, 16 pour cent en 1879 et 12 pour cent en 1860. Parmi les importations, 33 pour cent étaient des articles à l'état brut entrant dans les différents procédés de l'industrie du pays, au lieu de 32 pour cent en 1898, 26 pour cent en 1895, 24 pour cent en 1892, 23 pour cent en 1889 et 20 pour cent en 1885.

Les produits agricoles représentent environ 62½ pour cent des exportations, au lieu de 69 pour cent en 1898, 72 pour cent en 1894, 74 pour cent en 1884 et 83 pour cent en 1880, tandis que les produits agricoles classés comme "denrées alimentaires et animaux vivants" repré-

sentent 28.75 pour cent des importations, au lieu de 29.58 en 1898, 30 pour cent en 1896, 31 pour cent en 1886 et 34 pour cent en 1884.

Si on compare les importations et les exportations de 1899 avec celles des années précédentes, on constatera quelques faits très intéressants. De 1869 à 1899 les importations ont doublé, tandis que les exportations ont quadruplé. En 1869, les importations se montaient à \$438,455,984 et les exportations à \$337,375,984, soit un excédent d'importations sur les exportations de \$101,079,906, tandis que, comme il a été indiqué ci-dessus, l'excédent des exportations en 1899 s'est élevé à \$476,654,100. Sur la liste des importations, il y a une très grande différence entre les chiffres de 1899 et ceux de 1869, relativement à la proportion des marchandises admises en franchise et celles taxées, \$21,775,643 seulement du total importé en 1869 ayant été exempts de droits, tandis qu'en 1899 les marchandises non taxées se montaient à \$350,813,954.

Les exportations des marchandises étrangères représentent, d'année en année, un plus petit pour cent du total des exportations du pays, et ceci est dû à l'augmentation très rapide des exportations des marchandises du pays, la valeur des marchandises étrangères exportées en 1889 étant environ le double de celle de 1869, tandis que les exportations des marchandises du pays en 1889 étaient quatre fois plus grandes qu'en 1869.

Les importations pour 1899 étaient classées comme suit :

	Marchandises exemptes de la taxe.	Marchandises taxées.	Totaux.
Dentrées alimentaires et animaux.....	\$96, 289, 513	\$133, 681, 872	\$229, 971, 385
Articles bruts entrant dans les différents procédés de l'industrie du pays.....	209, 879, 608	57, 614, 351	267, 493, 959
Articles entièrement ou partiellement manufacturés destinés à être employés comme matériaux dans les manufactures et les arts mécaniques.....	27, 362, 123	48, 013, 882	75, 376, 905
Articles manufacturés pour la consommation.....	10, 660, 390	107, 679, 466	118, 339, 856
Articles de luxe.....	6, 622, 320	101, 042, 046	107, 664, 366
Totaux.....	350, 813, 954	448, 031, 617	798, 845, 571

Le total des droits perçus se montait à \$224,077,131, au lieu de \$182,810,559 en 1898.

Les exportations étaient comme suit :

Exportations du pays.		Pour cent.
Produits agricoles.....	\$782, 105, 048	62. 42
Produits des manufactures.....	380, 787, 891	30. 39
Produits des mines.....	33, 279, 187	2. 66
Produits des forêts.....	47, 562, 121	3. 80
Produits des pêches.....	5, 637, 077	. 45
Produits divers.....	3, 532, 663	. 28
Total des exportations du pays.....	1, 233, 558, 140	100. 00
Exportations étrangères:		
Marchandises exemptes de la taxe.....	9, 233, 468	42. 26
Marchandises taxées.....	13, 047, 216	57. 74
Total des exportations étrangères.....	22, 595, 684	100. 00
Total général des exportations.....	1, 275, 499, 671	.....

Pendant les années 1898 et 1899 les importations et les exportations, par grandes divisions, étaient les suivantes :

	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTATIONS.</b>		
Europe .....	\$402,507,267	\$324,726,482
Amérique du Sud .....	123,348,804	97,830,811
Amérique du Nord .....	91,728,862	83,075,415
Asie .....	136,863,919	94,310,501
Océanie .....	32,656,083	26,883,893
Afrique .....	11,740,636	8,137,346
<b>EXPORTATIONS.</b>		
Europe .....	959,234,520	981,230,370
Amérique du Nord .....	168,854,567	149,164,257
Amérique du Sud .....	37,421,700	35,105,408
Asie .....	53,843,554	46,956,598
Océanie .....	37,542,936	24,981,163
Afrique .....	18,602,394	18,111,470

Pendant l'année 1899 la valeur totale des importations des différentes Républiques Latines Américaines et celle des exportations dans ces Républiques, comparées avec celles des années antérieures, étaient comme suit :

	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTATIONS.</b>		
Mexique .....	\$24,625,000	\$19,650,099
Haïti .....	862,051	839,753
Saint-Domingue .....	3,367,958	2,382,170
Costa Rica .....	3,549,468	3,225,401
Guatemala .....	2,197,641	1,598,296
Honduras .....	880,287	923,858
Nicaragua .....	1,594,719	1,179,993
Salvador .....	1,082,964	748,571
République Argentine .....	5,997,373	5,569,842
Brésil .....	59,580,868	53,374,743
Chili .....	5,232,702	3,064,972
Colombie .....	5,462,432	4,810,465
Ecuador .....	1,098,081	1,064,567
Paraguay .....	160	.....
Pérou .....	2,096,575	1,121,024
Uruguay .....	1,512,605	1,487,503
Vénézuëla .....	5,669,925	6,609,919
Totaux .....	124,810,809	107,651,076
<b>EXPORTATIONS.</b>		
Mexique .....	29,369,802	23,113,850
Haïti .....	2,357,562	2,604,307
Saint-Domingue .....	1,118,933	1,089,193
Costa Rica .....	1,282,797	1,325,878
Guatemala .....	843,565	1,177,229
Honduras .....	1,038,904	784,020
Nicaragua .....	1,486,352	1,100,767
Salvador .....	634,591	698,146
République Argentine .....	11,325,257	8,012,615
Bolivie .....	27,448	36,008
Brésil .....	11,453,997	13,210,959
Chili .....	2,240,104	2,262,375
Colombie .....	2,985,801	2,923,404
Ecuador .....	1,179,619	819,063
Paraguay .....	11,159	.....
Pérou .....	1,395,046	1,383,880
Uruguay .....	1,702,009	1,392,774
Vénézuëla .....	2,641,390	2,736,726
Totaux .....	73,034,336	64,671,194

## COMMERCE DE LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE AVEC L'AMÉRIQUE.

### I.—Commerce avec les Etats-Unis.

Le "Monthly Accounts of Trade and Navigation" de la Grande-Bretagne, du mois de décembre 1899, contient des renseignements préliminaires sur les transactions commerciales du pays pendant l'année 1899. Le "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom" qui ne pourra pas être publié avant quelque temps donne, pour chaque article, des détails complets sur le commerce d'importation et d'exportation du Royaume-Uni, avec chaque pays étranger et Possessions Britanniques, pendant une période de cinq ans. Dans les tableaux donnés dans ces "accounts," les articles importés sont généralement classés comme provenant des pays où ils ont été embarqués. Dans la plupart des cas, le pays d'embarquement est aussi le pays d'origine, mais ce n'est pas toujours le cas, les marchandises provenant d'un pays étant quelquefois créditées, dans les tableaux, au pays dans le port duquel elles ont été réembarquées.

Le Paraguay et la Bolivie, dans l'Amérique du Sud, sont des pays qui n'ont pas de port de mer et, pour cette raison, ne figurent pas dans les tableaux. Les exportations sont généralement créditées au pays de la dernière destination, comme il a été déclaré par les exportateurs dans leurs entrées; cependant les produits exportés dans ces pays qui ne sont pas situés sur les bords de la mer sont crédités au pays dans lequel le port de débarquement est situé. Par exemple, si un chargement de marchandises était fait au Paraguay il serait crédité à la République Argentine ou à l'Uruguay.

En 1889, le trafic de la Grande-Bretagne a augmenté considérablement en comparaison de celui de 1898. Les importations des pays étrangers et des Possessions Britanniques pendant l'année 1899 sont évaluées à 485,075,574 livres sterling, tandis qu'en 1898 elles ne se sont montées qu'à 470,378,583 livres sterling; soit en valeur courante des Etats-Unis (1 livre sterling équivalant à \$4.8665) une somme de \$2,360,619,988.88 en 1899 au lieu de \$2,289,097,374.17 en 1898, soit pour l'année 1899 une augmentation de \$71,522,614.71.

En 1899 les exportations des produits et des articles manufacturés anglais et irlandais se sont montées à 264,660,647 livres sterling, tandis qu'en 1898 elles ne se sont élevées qu'à 233,359,240 livres sterling; les exportations des marchandises étrangères et coloniales se sont élevées en 1899 à 65,019,549 livres sterling, tandis qu'en 1898 elles n'atteignaient qu'une valeur de 60,654,748 livres sterling; la valeur totale des exportations en 1899 est en conséquence 329,680,196 livres sterling au lieu de 294,013,988 livres sterling en 1898. En réduisant ces livres sterling en monnaie courante des Etats-Unis, les exportations pendant les

années nommées ci-dessus se sont élevées respectivement à \$1,604,378,-673.83 et \$1,430,819,072.62. Les exportations de 1899 comprennent la valeur de nouveaux vaisseaux qui ne sont pas enregistrés comme anglais (9,195,192 livres sterling—\$44,748,401.87), laquelle valeur était entièrement un item d'augmentation. Sans cet item, l'augmentation dans les exportations s'est montée à \$128,711,199.36.

À ce sujet, si on compare les statistiques de la Grande-Bretagne avec celles des Etats-Unis pendant un quart de siècle on trouvera quelques faits intéressants. Les importations de la Grande-Bretagne en 1875 étaient évaluées à \$1,319,799,000 et en 1899 atteignaient une valeur de \$2,360,620,000; les importations des Etats-Unis en 1875 étaient évaluées à \$503,152,936 et en 1899 à \$798,845,571. Pendant les vingt-cinq années que nous comparons, à l'exception de l'année 1899, on a constaté une augmentation annuelle dans les exportations des Etats-Unis, tandis qu'au contraire les importations du Royaume-Uni ont augmenté annuellement pendant cette même période. En 1875 l'excédent des exportations des Etats-Unis se montait à \$7,794,486, et en 1899 il s'élevait à \$476,654,100, tandis que l'excédent des importations de la Grande-Bretagne était en 1875 \$449,314,000, avec un excédent en 1899 de \$756,-231,315.

Pendant les vingt-cinq années ci-dessus mentionnées, les statistiques du commerce extérieur des Etats-Unis montrent que les exportations ont dépassé les importations de \$3,971,566,000, tandis que les statistiques de la Grande-Bretagne montrent que les importations ont excédé les exportations de \$14,489,004,000. En 1899 les exportations des marchandises des pays du Royaume-Uni se sont élevées à \$1,287,971,038.63, tandis qu'en 1898 elles n'atteignaient que la somme de \$1,135,642,741.46, soit une augmentation pour 1899 de \$152,328,297.17. Les métaux et les articles qui en sont manufacturés paraissent avoir été la principale cause de l'augmentation constatée cette année-là, et en ce qui concerne ces derniers il est à remarquer que le gain a été dû à l'augmentation des prix plutôt qu'aux embarquements additionnels.

De 1875 à 1899 les exportations des produits provenant des pays de la Grande-Bretagne ont augmenté de \$1,087,497,000 à \$1,287,971,000 ou de 19 pour cent, tandis que l'augmentation de 1875 à 1899, y compris les produits étrangers et ceux des colonies, était de \$1,370,465,000 à \$1,640,388,674, soit une augmentation de 20 pour cent. Les exportations des produits provenant des Etats-Unis ont augmenté de \$497,263,737 en 1875 à \$1,253,486,000 en 1899, soit une augmentation de 152 pour cent. Les exportations des Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1875, y compris les articles étrangers, se sont montées à \$510,947,422 et en 1899 à \$1,275,486,641, soit une augmentation de 150 pour cent.

Les importations de tous les pays américains, aussi loin qu'elles peuvent être constatées par le "Monthly Accounts" du mois de décembre, se sont montées en 1899 à \$478,618,012.77, tandis qu'en 1898 elles atteignaient la somme de \$515,488,724.29. Les exportations de ces

pays en 1899 sont évaluées à \$120,053,367.58 au lieu de \$106,961,995.67 en 1898, dont plus de la moitié est allée aux Etats-Unis. La plus grande partie des importations provenaient des Etats-Unis. La valeur des importations des Etats-Unis et des exportations aux Etats-Unis est indiquée sommairement dans les tableaux suivants :

Articles.	1899.	1898.
IMPORTATIONS.		
Rétail.....	£184, 446	£219, 706
Chevaux.....	791, 410	779, 059
Blé.....	11, 811, 700	15, 394, 766
Farine.....	8, 563, 884	9, 427, 433
Orge.....	572, 321	794, 867
Avoine.....	1, 841, 347	2, 290, 368
Mais.....	8, 105, 167	7, 314, 935
Lard.....	6, 552, 180	6, 438, 239
Bœuf frais.....	5, 712, 251	4, 677, 431
Bœuf salé.....	226, 842	266, 660
Jambons.....	3, 781, 007	3, 651, 414
Porc salé.....	199, 850	224, 534
Saindoux.....	2, 909, 132	2, 796, 308
Autres viandes.....	214, 283	156, 706
Beurre.....	704, 061	285, 309
Fromage.....	1, 380, 609	1, 006, 586
Suif et stéarine.....	600, 128	538, 243
Poisson salé et sauré.....	58, 580	515, 937
Houblon.....	587, 536	838, 074
Sucre raffiné.....	5 9, 587	8, 212
Graine de lin.....	83, 976	65, 138
Minéral de cuivre, etc.....	118, 823	315, 921
Saumon de fonte et fer puddlé.....	219, 715	189, 615
Plomb en saumon et feuilles de plomb.....	275, 777	399, 257
Coton brut.....	19, 464, 130	27, 513, 032
Pulpe de bois.....	162, 922	68, 189
Bois gisant.....	08, 365	654, 604
Bois de sciage.....	1, 812, 884	1, 423, 408
Pendules et leurs parties.....	609, 893	91, 466
Cuir.....	3, 162, 539	3, 036, 811
Papier blanc.....	391, 304	396, 913
Papier imprimé.....	236, 887	34, 956
Pétrole.....	3, 437, 937	3, 023, 786
Totaux.....	85, 291, 467	94, 871, 883
En valeur courante des Etats-Unis.....	\$415, 070, 924. 16	\$461, 694, 018. 62
EXPORTATIONS.		
Bière at aile.....	£173, 319	£146, 193
Sel.....	85, 501	81, 146
Spiritueux.....	186, 078	176, 505
Coton manufacturé.....	1, 806, 116	1, 248, 812
Fil de jute et tissus de jute (marchandises à la pièce).....	343, 676	210, 399
Fil de toile et tissus de toile (marchandises à la pièce).....	1, 931, 053	1, 673, 341
Fil de soie et soie manufacturée.....	187, 305	162, 751
Laine et laine filée.....	16, 004	13, 948
Tissus de laine.....	363, 457	286, 532
Tissus filés.....	785, 597	764, 661
Tapis.....	62, 891	.....
Quincaillerie et coutellerie.....	122, 107	253, 827
Fer, y compris le saumon de fonte.....	459, 183	253, 822
Acier non manufacturé.....	330, 152	250, 405
Acier manufacturé.....	83, 472	85, 537
Plomb.....	807	1, 178
Etain non manufacturé.....	11, 340	5, 944
Fer-blanc.....	755, 322	683, 913
Locomotives et machines.....	464, 536	355, 379
Vêtements.....	84, 845	77, 000
Produits chimiques.....	336, 851	363, 597
Ciment.....	74, 697	87, 895
Poterie et porcelaine de Chine.....	651, 215	534, 223
Papier de toutes sortes.....	105, 144	111, 396
Sellerie et harnais.....	49, 828	38, 557
Peaux et fourrures.....	921, 604	709, 173
Coton.....	1, 329, 080	900, 799
Thé.....	119, 957	146, 646
Laine.....	1, 556, 569	1, 463, 326
Sacs pour marchandise.....	4, 245	2, 303
Totaux.....	13, 401, 961	10, 965, 042
En valeur courante des Etats-Unis.....	\$65, 220, 643. 21	\$53, 361, 376. 89

Un exemple digne d'être noté de la diminution des importations de la Grande-Bretagne provenant des Etats-Unis a été le coton brut, et il ne paraît pas que cette diminution ait été suppléée ailleurs, car le nombre de livres importées de tous les pays au Royaume-Uni pendant l'année 1899 se montait à 1,452,039,100 livres au lieu de 1,900,489,600 en 1898. Ceci indiquerait ou que les manufactures étaient en plus petit nombre, ou que la provision actuelle de coton brut en magasin était moindre qu'à l'ordinaire. En 1899, la valeur des importations de blé et de la farine de blé des Etats-Unis était beaucoup moindre que celle de 1898, mais pour le blé, ceci paraît être dû en partie à l'augmentation des importations de la République Argentine, de la Russie et de l'Inde anglaise. On a constaté une augmentation dans la quantité de farine importée des Etats-Unis, mais la valeur a été bien moindre que celle de 1898. Le nombre de livres importées était 1,840,579,600, tandis qu'en 1898 il s'élevait à 1,744,589,000. Le total général des livres importées de tous les pays se montait en 1899 à 2,294,570,800 au lieu de 2,101,710,900 en 1898, ce qui montre que la Grande-Bretagne dépend des Etats-Unis pour la plus grande partie de ses approvisionnements.

## II.—COMMERCE AVEC L'AMERIQUE LATINE.

### MEXIQUE.

Quoiqu'il y ait eu indubitablement des importations du Mexique, aucune n'est signalée dans le rapport préliminaire. Les exportations dans ce pays étant comme suit :

Articles.	1899.	1898.
Cotonnade écrue (à la pièce) .....	\$10, 813. 36	\$11, 012. 89
Cotonnade blanchie (à la pièce) .....	918, 264. 75	922, 883. 06
Cotonnade imprimée (à la pièce) .....	714, 154. 00	595, 737. 46
Cotonnade teinte (à la pièce) .....	498, 334. 34	412, 761. 93
Toile (à la pièce) .....	198, 076. 28	200, 353. 81
Rails de fer .....	460, 906. 22	207, 103. 64
Fer galvanisé .....	377, 046. 69	257, 666. 58
<b>Totaux</b> .....	<b>3, 175, 595. 64</b>	<b>2, 607, 519. 37</b>

### AMÉRIQUE CENTRALE.

Les importations de l'Amérique Centrale ne sont pas spécifiées par pays et seulement la valeur d'un article (le café) est mentionnée. L'importation de ce produit, en 1899, s'est montée à \$2,549,598.28 contre \$5,307,278 en 1898.

Articles.	1899.	1898.
<b>EXPORTATIONS.</b>		
Cotonnade écrue .....	\$369, 907. 53	\$333, 885. 70
Cotonnade blanchie .....	406, 907. 53	322, 454. 29
Cotonnade imprimée .....	516, 987. 76	301, 727. 87
Cotonnade teinte .....	244, 741. 15	178, 381. 56
Tôle galvanisée .....	88, 005. 79	67, 396. 16
<b>Totaux</b> .....	<b>1, 626, 549. 76</b>	<b>1, 203, 845. 58</b>

## AMÉRIQUE DU SUD.

En ce qui concerne l'Amérique du Sud toute entière, les importations et les exportations étaient comme suit, en valeur courante des Etats-Unis :

Articles.	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTATIONS.</b>		
Pays non spécifiés.....	\$3,935,368.22	\$4,510,685.85
République Argentine.....	46,296,282.68	31,905,820.31
Brésil.....	1,645,509.91	2,443,782.11
Chili.....	7,201,930.89	6,231,416.99
Pérou.....	1,918,398.63	3,395,722.04
Totaux .....	60,997,490.33	48,487,427.30
<b>EXPORTATIONS.</b>		
Pays non spécifiés.....	5,377,606.53	4,328,396.50
République Argentine.....	15,838,471.98	14,277,152.78
Brésil.....	14,824,695.67	18,440,906.03
Chili.....	5,198,582.65	4,178,045.71
Colombie.....	1,850,155.70	2,029,812.29
Pérou.....	2,299,333.67	2,197,536.22
Uruguay.....	3,111,111.46	3,020,305.53
Vénézuéla.....	1,530,621.31	1,317,098.77
Totaux .....	50,030,578.97	49,789,253.83

Pris séparément, les chiffres sont d'accord avec les tableaux suivants, aucune importation ne figurant pour plusieurs pays.

## RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

Articles.	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTATIONS.</b>		
Bétail.....	\$6,777,083.03	\$6,575,926.26
Mouton et agneau .....	2,012,288.79	3,101,848.70
Mouton frais.....	7,251,892.84	6,608,346.83
Suif et stéarine.....	747,197.54	868,485.32
Blé.....	17,626,769.59	8,535,373.82
Maïs.....	7,782,441.56	3,507,953.26
Graine de lin.....	2,983,962.61	2,158,618.81
Peaux salées <i>a</i> .....	214,646.72	549,267.26
Totaux .....	46,296,282.68	31,905,820.31

*a* Y compris la valeur de celles reçues de l'Uruguay.

La quantité de blé importé de la République Argentine pendant l'année 1899 s'est montée à 18,947,667 boisseaux de 60 livres chacun au lieu de 6,639,000 boisseaux en 1898 et 1,555,167 boisseaux en 1897.

Articles.	1899.	1898.
<b>EXPORTATIONS.</b>		
Cotonnade (marchandises à la pièce):		
Ecrue.....	\$740,326.05	\$895,231.61
Blanchie.....	1,898,577.38	2,082,798.74
Imprimée.....	2,233,820.83	1,880,177.14
Teinte.....	1,786,574.88	1,343,426.52
Jute (marchandises à la pièce).....	1,641,037.33	1,005,501.63
Toile (marchandises à la pièce).....	249,996.97	215,581.09
Tissus de laine.....	720,251.73	748,621.06
Laine filée.....	1,492,156.50	1,210,566.21



Articles.	1899.	1898.
EXPORTATIONS—continued.		
Tapis.....	\$271, 010. 52	\$206, 573. 19
Quincaillerie .....	162, 687. 10	159, 519. 48
Coutellerie .....	83, 295. 01	78, 160. 86
Rails de fer .....	642, 193. 07	1, 269, 781. 78
Tôle galvanisée.....	1, 378, 708. 65	1, 086, 718. 65
Tous les autres fers .....	1, 941, 543. 71	1, 540, 991. 82
Fer blanc et étain en feuilles .....	226, 881. 10	241, 164. 27
Ciment .....	143, 459. 55	151, 791. 00
Porcelaine de Chine et poterie.....	225, 951. 60	159, 747. 73
Totaux .....	15, 838, 471. 98	14, 277, 152. 78

## BRÉSIL.

IMPORTATIONS.		
Sucre brut .....	\$310, 721. 16	\$1, 021, 147. 43
Café .....	706, 469. 81	828, 156. 64
Coton brut.....	472, 517. 68	476, 392. 42
Peaux salées.....	155, 791. 26	118, 085. 62
Totaux .....	1, 645, 509. 91	2, 443, 782. 11
EXPORTATIONS.		
Charbon, coke, etc .....	3, 016, 801. 75	2, 952, 500. 67
Cotonnade écrue (marchandises à la pièce) .....	254, 127. 72	398, 804. 81
Cotonnade blanchie (marchandises à la pièce) .....	1, 481, 917. 38	2, 317, 806. 89
Cotonnade imprimée.....	2, 930, 036. 92	4, 667, 611. 01
Cotonnade teinte .....	1, 948, 011. 29	2, 118, 294. 72
Jute (marchandises à la pièce).....	112, 323. 69	344, 840. 19
Fil de jute .....	1, 030, 505. 71	1, 074, 469. 67
Toile (marchandises à la pièce) .....	341, 370. 38	380, 133. 58
Tissus de laine.....	384, 847. 60	473, 588. 31
Laine filée .....	594, 102. 32	681, 305. 13
Cuivre manufacturé .....	249, 724. 45	256, 852. 80
Quincaillerie .....	170, 736. 29	148, 914. 90
Coutellerie.....	200, 100. 75	182, 162. 83
Rails de fer .....	454, 462. 97	693, 140. 46
Tôle galvanisée.....	227, 552. 20	241, 139. 94
Acier manufacturé .....	169, 067. 08	206, 762. 99
Fer-blanc et étain en feuilles .....	347, 828. 22	312, 117. 84
Cuir et chaussures.....	239, 212. 81	355, 638. 96
Ciment.....	166, 210. 44	141, 576. 22
Poterie et porcelaine de Chine .....	204, 321. 05	283, 142. 70
Huile de graines .....	211, 444. 56	210, 101. 41
Totaux.....	14, 824, 695. 67	18, 440, 906. 03

## CHILI.

IMPORTATIONS.		
Blé .....	\$413, 321. 58	\$1, 607, 171. 36
Minéral de cuivre .....	2, 013, 392. 71	974, 988. 68
Régule de cuivre et cuivre précipité.....	790, 553. 19	594, 642. 50
Cuivre ouvré et à demi ouvré.....	3, 984, 663. 41	3, 054, 614. 45
Totaux .....	7, 201, 930. 89	6, 231, 416. 99
EXPORTATIONS.		
Cotonnade écrue (marchandises à la pièce) .....	435, 585. 82	332, 016. 96
Cotonnade blanchie (marchandises à la pièce) .....	884, 447. 44	843, 875. 43
Cotonnade imprimée (marchandises à la pièce) .....	831, 718. 92	576, 412. 59
Cotonnade teinte (marchandises à la pièce) .....	834, 560. 95	505, 264. 36
Tissus de laine.....	460, 200. 57	400, 259. 89
Laine filée.....	500, 524. 39	301, 080. 62
Tapis.....	127, 818. 62	89, 436. 54
Quincaillerie .....	36, 617. 97	49, 287. 91
Coutellerie.....	34, 839. 27	52, 050. 77
Rails de fer.....	256, 245. 56	29, 753. 78
Fer galvanisé .....	272, 241. 74	264, 182. 82
Tous les autres fers manufacturés.....	523, 781. 40	454, 424. 04
Totaux .....	5, 198, 582. 65	4, 178, 045. 71

Sous le titre de "Engrais," les "Accounts" montre en 1899 une importation de 140,851 tonnes de nitrate au lieu de 130,327 tonnes en 1898. Les évaluations de ce produit pendant les années comparées étaient respectivement \$5,206,040.57 et \$4,734,136.07. Si toutes les importations provenaient du Chili, comme c'était jusqu'à un certain point indubitablement le cas, alors ces totaux devraient être ajoutés à ceux des années nommées.

## COLOMBIE.

	1899.	1898.
<b>EXPORTATIONS.</b>		
Cotonnade écrue (marchandises à la pièce).....	\$130,504.93	\$149,902.80
Cotonnade blanchie (marchandises à la pièce).....	596,462.57	620,916.74
Cotonnade imprimée (marchandises à la pièce).....	679,733.25	704,984.60
Cotonnade teinte (marchandises à la pièce).....	329,145.73	349,473.10
Laine (marchandises à la pièce).....	114,309.22	144,535.05
Totaux .....	1,850,155.70	2,029,812.29

## PÉROU.

<b>IMPORTATIONS.</b>		
Sucre non raffiné.....	\$909,256.86	\$2,496,874.62
Laine provenant de l'alpaca, de la vigogne et du lama .....	1,009,141.77	898,847.42
Totaux .....	1,918,398.63	3,395,722.04
<b>EXPORTATIONS.</b>		
Cotonnade écrue (marchandises à la pièce).....	146,734.71	238,025.38
Cotonnade blanchie (marchandises à la pièce).....	509,357.09	510,286.59
Cotonnade imprimée (marchandises à la pièce).....	641,102.58	536,497.56
Cotonnade teinte (marchandises à la pièce).....	387,042.48	372,496.51
Tissus de laine.....	319,403.00	253,009.35
Laine filée.....	167,052.35	164,969.48
Rails de fer et acier.....	21,242.27	21,106.00
Tous les autres fers manufacturés.....	107,398.79	101,145.35
Totaux .....	2,299,333.67	2,197,536.22

## URAGUAY.

<b>EXPORTATIONS.</b>		
Cotonnade écrue (marchandises à la pièce).....	\$234,752.03	\$317,315.27
Cotonnade blanchie (marchandises à la pièce).....	615,884.77	626,975.53
Cotonnade imprimée (marchandises à la pièce).....	727,867.81	654,471.25
Cotonnade teinte (marchandises à la pièce).....	572,971.98	582,218.33
Tissus de laine.....	196,314.61	220,282.12
Laine filée.....	420,942.52	334,942.52
Rails de fer.....	29,880.31	35,384.32
Fer galvanisé.....	214,812.18	179,719.85
Fer en barres.....	97,685.25	69,877.97
Totaux .....	3,111,111.46	3,020,305.53

## VÉNÉZUÉLA.

<b>EXPORTATIONS.</b>		
Cotonnade écrue (marchandises à la pièce).....	\$72,345.39	79,703.54
Cotonnade blanchie (marchandises à la pièce).....	560,226.61	524,681.70
Cotonnade imprimée (marchandises à la pièce).....	551,934.10	520,525.71
Cotonnade teinte (marchandises à la pièce).....	346,115.21	192,187.82
Totaux .....	1,530,621.31	1,317,098.77

## BOLIVIE.

## PROJETS DE CHEMINS DE FER.

Il résulte d'une communication du chargé d'affaires de France à La Paz faite à son gouvernement, que le gouvernement bolivien proposerait d'inscrire au budget de l'année courante un crédit de 120,000 boliviens pour les études de trois lignes de chemins de fer: d'Oruro à La Paz et au Titicaca; d'Oruro à Cochabamba et de Challapata à Colquechaca. Une somme de 50,000 boliviens serait accordée, en outre, pour l'étude d'une voie ferrée partant de Potosi et aboutissant à la frontière argentine.

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## BRÉSIL.

## GRANDS SPECIMENS DE CAOUTCHOUC BRUT.

Le bateau à vapeur *Dominic* qui est arrivé à New York le 7 février, de Manaos et Para, a apporté une cargaison de caoutchouc brut. Dans ce chargement se trouvaient deux morceaux immenses de caoutchouc de forme sphérique, pesant chacun entre 800 et 900 livres. On dit que ce sont les plus grands spécimens de caoutchouc brut qui aient jamais été apportés aux Etats-Unis, et ils seront envoyés à l'Exposition Pan-Américaine, à Buffalo, pour y être exposés.

## ADJUDICATION DES TRAVAUX D'AMELIORATION DU PORT DE MANAOS.

Le 6 mars 1900 aura lieu à Rio de Janeiro l'adjudication des "travaux d'amélioration du port de Manaos" (Etat d'Amazonas), comprenant: (1) La régularisation du lit et des rives du fleuve, la construction des rampes d'accès, quais, docks et tout ce qui sera nécessaire au service de l'abordage, du chargement, du déchargement et du magasinage; (2) travaux de dragage. Cautionnement provisoire: 10 contos de reis (environ 8,000 francs ou 1,600 dollars).

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## CUBA.

## DÉCOUVERTE D'UN RICHE DÉPÔT DE CHARBON.

On rapporte que la découverte, dans le district de Mayari, près de la baie Nipi, de riches gisements de charbon de la meilleure qualité, peut exercer une influence considérable dans le développement futur de l'île et résoudra peut-être le problème d'utiliser les ressources des mines de fer et de manganèse que l'on dit être si abondantes et d'une si belle qualité.

Plusieurs tonnes de charbon recueillies des affleurements ont été examinées avec soin et ce produit a été trouvé être de première qualité et ressemblant au minerai connu sous le nom de "cannel coal," espèce de charbon de terre de la meilleure qualité. Jusqu'ici on n'avait fait que très peu de recherches, les géologues croyant, en toute probabilité, qu'on ne pouvait trouver aucun gisement dans l'Ile. D'après les rapports de plusieurs ingénieurs des mines, la découverte d'une provision suffisante de charbon indiquerait un haussement immédiat de la valeur de toutes les propriétés minières de Cuba. Le manque de combustibles a été jusqu'ici le plus grand obstacle au développement de l'industrie minière dans l'Ile.

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## ETATS-UNIS.

### LE SYSTÈME MÉTRIQUE.

Le mouvement en faveur de l'adoption par les Etats-Unis du système métrique des poids et mesures a reçu la cordiale approbation d'une haute autorité, le Ministre des finances, l'Honorable LYMAN J. GAGE qui, dans son rapport sur la situation financière du pays, soumis récemment au Congrès, attire l'attention des législateurs sur l'importance d'avoir aux Etats-Unis le même système employé au Mexique, dans les Républiques du Sud et du centre de l'Amérique, aux Iles Philippines, à Puerto Rico et dans les autres pays. Le ministre fait remarquer que la grande rivalité commerciale des nations devrait faire sentir au Congrès la nécessité d'adopter le système métrique, démontrant qu'une telle mesure diminuerait sûrement les difficultés du commerce extérieur. Il ajoute que les Etats-Unis se sont déjà engagés à adopter ce système, et maintient que l'accomplissement de ces promesses facilitera considérablement les transactions commerciales internationales.

Un puissant argument en faveur de l'adoption du système métrique s'est présenté récemment; jusqu'ici les raisons principales sur lesquelles on a insisté, ont été que le nouveau système est beaucoup plus simple et plus uniforme que l'ancien. Il existe actuellement deux sortes de livre, deux sortes de tonne, deux sortes de quarte, deux sortes de gallon et deux ou trois genres de baril. Le système métrique évite non seulement cette incertitude confuse, mais encore, en substituant les fractions décimales aux moitiés, aux quarts, etc., rapproche davantage le système des poids et mesures de l'étalon des valeurs courantes.

Quoique les ingénieurs et les manufacturiers des Etats-Unis ne soient pas encore d'accord sur l'adoption immédiate de ce système, il existe néanmoins un grand mouvement et probablement une prépondérance de sentiment en sa faveur.

Il y a 30 ans que le changement s'est opéré en Allemagne avec une facilité surprenante. Une ou deux années furent employées à préparer

et à discuter ce projet avant que le système devint obligatoire, et quand la loi fut mise en vigueur on s'y soumit sans contrainte. Un des principaux manufacturiers d'Allemagne déclara qu'il n'avait eu besoin seulement que de deux semaines pour appliquer le système dans ses travaux, et qu'actuellement les ouvriers le préféreraient, le trouvant plus facile que l'ancien. Les attestations de ces hommes ainsi que celles d'autres personnes produiraient l'impression que le système métrique pourrait être adopté aux Etats-Unis avec moins de difficulté que l'on a supposé.

#### PRODUCTION DU SAUMON DE FONTE EN 1899.

"The American Iron and Steel Association" a reçu des manufacturiers des statistiques complètes de la production de tous les genres de saumon de fonte dans les Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899, ainsi que des statistiques complètes des stocks de saumon de fonte restant en magasin et à vendre le 31 décembre 1899.

Pendant l'année 1899 vingt et un états ont produit le saumon de fonte au lieu de 19 en 1897 et en 1898; Minnesota et la Caroline du Nord étant compris de nouveau dans la liste. La production totale du saumon de fonte se montait, en 1899, à 13,620,703 grandes tonnes, tandis qu'en 1898 elle n'atteignait que 11,773,934 tonnes, soit une augmentation de 1,846,769 tonnes.

Pendant le second semestre de l'année 1899, la production dépassait de plus d'un million de tonnes la quantité produite dans le premier semestre, se montant pour la première moitié de l'année à 6,289,167 tonnes et pour la seconde moitié à 7,331,536 tonnes. La production du saumon de fonte Bessemer était en 1899 de 8,202,778 tonnes, tandis qu'en 1898, elle n'était que de 7,337,384 tonnes. Le saumon de fonte basique, 985,023 tonnes contre 785,444 tonnes en 1898; le "spiegeleisen" et le ferromanganèse, 219,658 tonnes contre 213,769 tonnes en 1898. Le saumon de fonte, obtenu au moyen du charbon de bois, 284,766 tonnes contre 296,750 tonnes en 1898.

Les stocks de saumon de fonte qui n'étaient pas vendus et qui se trouvaient entre les mains des manufacturiers le 31 décembre 1899, se montaient à 63,429 tonnes contre 291,233 tonnes le 31 décembre 1898. A la date du 31 décembre 1899, il existait 289 hauts fourneaux en opération au lieu de 240 le 30 juin 1899, et 202 le 31 décembre 1898.

#### CIRCULATION DE LA MONNAIE.

A la date du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1900, le total de la monnaie en circulation se montait à \$1,980,398,170, quantité qui n'avait jamais été atteinte auparavant. Les chiffres au 1<sup>er</sup> février montrent une augmentation de près de \$23,000,000 et portent le total de la monnaie actuellement en circulation aux Etats-Unis à \$2,033,149,355. Cette circulation énorme est due à la politique du Trésor qui, au lieu de conserver cet argent dans ses caisses, l'a transféré aux banques pour être utilisé comme prêt. La

circulation, per capita, pour une population estimée à 77,116,000 âmes, a atteint \$25.98.

Un des faits les plus remarquables est que presque la moitié de la monnaie en circulation est en or, étant ou de la monnaie d'or ou des certificats d'or (gold certificates) émis contre la monnaie d'or déposée au Trésor. La monnaie d'or reportée en circulation le 1<sup>er</sup> février se montait à \$619,447,176 et les certificats d'or (gold certificates) à \$184,882,889. Ce rapport n'indique pas la quantité de monnaie d'or qui se trouve dans le pays, puisque \$218,613,617 en monnaie et en lingot d'or ont été réservés le 1<sup>er</sup> février comme une partie de l'actif du Trésor. A la date du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1900, le total de la monnaie d'or du pays était \$1,016,009,877, s'élevant le 1<sup>er</sup> février 1900 à une somme plus forte, soit \$1,022,943,682. L'or est aujourd'hui le plus large item de la circulation, les certificats d'argent (silver certificates) venant après pour \$396,519,045, les billets des Etats-Unis (United States notes) venant ensuite pour \$317,500,312 et enfin les billets de la banque nationale pour \$240,885,761. A la fin de la récolte, la circulation des dollars d'argent, au titre droit, commence à diminuer. Le montant est tombé de \$70,420,047 le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier à \$67,888,019 le 1<sup>er</sup> février.

#### EXPORTATIONS DE FER ET D'ACIER.

Rien ne donne une preuve plus frappante des progrès merveilleux du commerce extérieur des Etats-Unis, que les exportations de fer et d'acier. Pendant l'année 1890, le total des exportations de fer et d'acier se montait à \$27,000,000, et en 1899 il atteignait la somme de \$105,689,645. Pendant ce temps, les importations de fer et d'acier ont diminué avec une rapidité presque équivalente, les importations en 1890 étant \$44,544,140 et celles de 1899 \$15,799,206.

Le tableau suivant montre les exportations des principales classes des manufactures de fer et d'acier pendant l'année 1899, comparées avec celles de 1889:

Articles.	1889.	1899.
Machines .....	\$8,222,904	\$37,064,168
Matériaux de construction en fer et en acier.....	4,052,136	8,943,530
Rails d'acier.....	279,485	6,122,382
Fils de métal .....	679,969	5,526,930
Locomotives.....	1,586,746	4,767,850
Autres machines .....	216,346	516,787
Machines à coudre .....	2,575,539	4,103,828
Saumon de fer .....	227,048	3,282,241
Plaques et feuilles.....	32,720	2,047,301
Clous faits avec les fils de métal; brochettes .....	169,313	1,955,773
Fonte.....	432,621	1,348,133
Barres d'acier .....		1,038,336
Presse typographique .....	277,800	1,037,644
Armes à feu .....	9,229	892,620
Balances de toutes espèces .....	335,646	487,117
Clous faits à la mécanique.....	282,458	482,882
Contellerie.....	105,245	252,156
Tous les autres articles.....	3,127,299	25,818,671
<b>Totaux .....</b>	<b>23,712,814</b>	<b>105,689,645</b>

**PRODUCTION DU SUCRE DE BETTERAVE.**

Pendant l'année 1899 les Etats-Unis ont produit 95,000 tonnes environ de sucre de betterave, quantité considérable si on la compare à celle produite l'année précédente (40,000 tonnes), ce dernier chiffre n'ayant été atteint seulement qu'après de nombreux efforts. Si la Californie n'avait pas été désolée par la sécheresse, le total aurait excédé 100,000 tonnes. Le sucre provenant des fabriques de l'Illinois et du Michigan est maintenant devenu un facteur sur les marchés de l'Ouest. On est en train de faire les plans pour la construction, dans le courant de l'année 1900, de trois nouvelles fabriques sur la côte du Pacifique. La "Golden Gate Beet Sugar Company" vient d'acheter dans la Californie 1,000 acres de la meilleure terre à betterave et a l'intention d'en activer vigoureusement la culture. Cette compagnie est sous le contrôle de capitalistes de San Francisco. Une autre fabrique sera construite à Los Angeles et la troisième sera érigée à 25 milles au nord de Las Vegas, Nouveau Mexique.

**CONSTRUCTION D'UN CHEMIN DE FER À HAWAII (ILES SANDWICH).**

D'après Mr. R. E. CONDON, un entrepreneur de chemin de fer, arrivé récemment d'Honolulu, les plans pour la construction d'une voie ferrée dans les Iles Sandwich seront poussés avec vigueur pendant l'année 1900. Messieurs T. L. & A. JOHNSON de Cleveland, Ohio, construiront probablement une ligne de 300 milles de longueur pendant la saison. Leur projet comprend plusieurs lignes électriques à Honolulu et dans d'autres places de l'Ile de Oahu. Les travaux commenceront dans les premiers jours du mois de mars et Messieurs JOHNSON sont en train de commander le matériel nécessaire. La Compagnie du chemin de fer Kohala et Hilo (the Kohala and Hilo Railway Co.) passera bientôt un contrat pour la première section de sa ligne électrique de Honolulu à Kohala. Cette ligne aura une longueur de 130 milles.

**CONSTITUTION D'UNE SOCIÉTÉ INDUSTRIELLE POUR LA FABRICATION DE PARFUMS.**

Il résulte des renseignements empruntés à l'"Evening Post" de Chicago, qu'une société industrielle serait en voie de formation, pour être incorporée sous les lois de l'Etat de l'Illinois, en vue de la culture des fleurs et de la distillerie de parfums sur une très grande échelle. Des capitalistes de Chicago et de New-York se seraient unis pour cette entreprise. Ils auraient acheté de vastes étendues de terrain à Monrovia, dans la Californie. Jusqu'à ce jour les Etats-Unis ont été tributaires de l'étranger en ce qui concerne les parfums. L'importation de ces produits, qui viennent principalement du midi de la France et de l'Allemagne, est d'environ 8 à 9 millions de francs. Le compagnie en formation espère non seulement conquérir le marché indigène, mais encore étendre son action sur les marchés extérieurs. Un de ses agents

aurait déjà parcouru les principaux pays d'Europe et posé des bases auprès de grands fabricants de drogues et de parfumerie de ces contrées.

#### LE PLUS GRAND BASSIN À RADOUB DU MONDE.

Le nouveau bassin à radoub que les Etats-Unis font construire à Algiers, dans le port de la Nouvelle-Orléans, sera le plus grand du monde. Les navires construits maintenant ou en voie de construction pourront facilement flotter dans ce bassin dont les dimensions sont les suivantes: 525 pieds de longueur, 100 pieds de largeur d'un mur à l'autre, 20 pieds de tirage d'eau, pouvant mettre à flot, en 3 heures et demie, un poids de 18,000 tonnes. Quand il sera terminé, pendant l'automne de 1900, il coûtera près de \$1,000,000.

#### STATUE DE WASHINGTON POUR PARIS.

La ville de Paris (France) recevra dans quelques mois, comme don d'une société de femmes américaines, une statue magnifique de WASHINGTON, pour laquelle un bel emplacement a déjà été choisi. Cette statue est l'œuvre de DANIEL C. FRENCH et E. C. POTTER et fut commandée par l'Association de Femmes Américaines, pour être offerte à la France. L'œuvre des sculpteurs a été achevée et la Compagnie HENRY-BONNARD est en train de la couler. Cette statue, une fois complètement terminée, aura, de la base au sommet de la tête, une hauteur de 15 pieds, mais le bras et le sabre en l'air s'étendent 6 pieds plus haut, donnant à la statue, depuis la ligne la plus basse de la base jusqu'à la pointe du sabre, une hauteur de 22 pieds environ.

Elle montre WASHINGTON en grande tenue, monté sur un beau cheval de bataille, tenant dans sa main droite son sabre qu'il brandit au-dessus de sa tête, le consacrant au service de sa patrie, pendant que dans sa main gauche il tient la bride de son cheval plein de feu et impatient de s'élancer, mais obéissant néanmoins au grand cavalier. La figure a été modelée d'après le buste sculpté par HOUDON et d'autres portraits frappants de WASHINGTON.

Quand la statue sera complètement achevée, elle sera érigée sur la place d'Iéna et reposera sur un piédestal qui a été dessiné par McKIM, MEAD & WHITE.

#### LES PLUS GRANDES SALINES DU MONDE.

D'après le cubage actuel, on a assuré que le niveau du Grand Lac Salé à Utah descend constamment à cause des entreprises d'irrigation qui absorbent maintenant le grand volume d'eau tributaire. La disparition du Lac enlèverait à l'Etat de Utah et à sa capitale, Salt Lake City, une des plus grandes attractions, mais rendrait plus facile l'accès d'une des plus grandes sources d'approvisionnement de sel du monde. D'après les calculs d'hommes savants considérés comme conservateurs, on estime que ce lac contient environ 400,000,000 tonnes de sel



ordinaire. Si on acceptait cette estimation comme approximativement correcte, toutes les autres salines du monde disparaîtraient devant les richesses que les Grands Lacs Salés offriraient si ses eaux tarissaient. Un tel évènement rendrait l'accès du minéral plus facile et moins coûteux que dans n'importe qu'elle autre mine ou manufacture de sel du monde.

Les Etats-Unis ont produit l'année dernière 2,450,000 tonnes de sel. À ce taux, si tous les saliniers du pays allaient exploiter les dépôts de sel qui se trouvent dans le lit du Grand Lac Salé, il leur faudrait plus de 162 ans pour épuiser l'approvisionnement.

### ESTIMATIONS FINALES DES RÉCOLTES DE 1899.

Le statisticien du Ministère de l'agriculture à Washington a complété et publié ses estimations finales de la contenance, de la production et de la valeur des récoltes de 1899. Conformément à la méthode employée par le département, les valeurs sont basées sur la moyenne des prix reçus par les fermiers le 1<sup>er</sup> décembre.

D'après les chiffres officiels, 44,592,516 acres étaient ensemencés de blé, la production étant 547,303,846 boisseaux et la valeur \$319,545,-259; le rendement moyen étant 12.3 boisseaux et la moyenne du prix des fermes, par boisseau, 58.4 cents.

L'aire ensemencée de maïs était 82,108,387 acres, la production 2,078,143,933 boisseaux et la valeur \$629,210,110; le rendement moyen par acre étant 25.3 boisseaux et le prix moyen des fermes, par boisseau, 30.3 cents.

La superficie ensemencée d'avoine était 26,341,380 acres, la production 796,177,713 boisseaux et la valeur \$198,167,975; le rendement moyen par acre étant 30.02 boisseaux et le prix moyen des fermes, par boisseau, 24.9 cents.

La récolte de l'orge est estimée à 73,381,563 boisseaux; celle du seigle à 23,961,741 boisseaux; la récolte du blé sarrasin à 11,094,473 boisseaux; la récolte des pommes de terre à 228,783,232 boisseaux, et celle du foin à 56,653,756 tonnes.

### COMPARAISON ENTRE LE TRAVAIL MANUEL ET LE TRAVAIL MÉCANIQUE.

Conformément à la décision prise par le Congrès, le Département du travail des Etats-Unis a fait des investigations sur le remplacement, dans les manufactures de fer et d'acier, du travail manuel par le travail mécanique. D'après ce rapport, on a constaté qu'avec les machines on pouvait fabriquer les limes en trois fois moins de temps que par le travail manuel employé en 1872. En 1857, un ouvrier mettait 98 heures à fabriquer un canon rayé pour fusil, tandis qu'aujourd'hui il peut le faire en 3 heures et 40 minutes. Un boulon à vis d'un demi-pouce d'épaisseur et 6 pouces de longueur, avec écrous, est fabriqué au moyen

de machines à raison de 500 en 8 heures, tandis que la même quantité faite manuellement requérait jadis 43 heures de travail. La fabrication de tuyaux de fer, soudés à recouvrement, ayant une longueur de 100 pieds et 4 pouces de diamètre, demandait, en 1835, 85 heures et 20 minutes de travail manuel, tandis que le même produit est fabriqué maintenant en moins de 5 heures.

#### UNE CARTE GIGANTESQUE.

Une des choses intéressantes que les Etats-Unis enverront à l'Exposition universelle de Paris, sera une carte immense de la ville de New York, que l'on est en train de construire. Cette carte une fois achevée, aura une dimension de 28 pieds sur 24 et sera construite sur une échelle de 1 pouce pour 600 pieds. Elle contiendra tous les faubourgs de la grande ville et une partie considérable du territoire voisin. Tous les arbres, les parcs, les quais, les voies ferrées et fluviales seront indiqués sur cette carte; elle montrera l'Etat de New York divisé en comtés, les points élevés de la ville et embrassera plus de 1,000 milles carrés de territoire, indiquant en outre tous les édifices importants. Dans chaque coin de la carte, seront dessinées à la plume quelques vues remarquables de la ville, lesquelles auront une dimension de 12 pouces sur 18, et tout autour de la carte se trouveront de plus petits croquis représentant les différents édifices publics.

La carte sera placée sur une large plate-forme entourée d'une balustrade en bronze à hauteur d'appui et à jour. En même temps que cette carte seront exposées, une copie d'une carte qui se trouve actuellement dans le musée de la ville d'Albany et qui représente l'Ile de Manhattan en 1876, et aussi deux cartes de la ville comme elle existait en 1641 et 1800. Les quatre cartes réunies fourniront une belle occasion pour démontrer l'agrandissement de la ville pendant les trois siècles qui viennent de s'écouler.

#### RECETTES DES ILES PHILIPPINES PENDANT LE MOIS DE JANVIER 1900.

D'après un rapport publié par le Ministère de la guerre des Etats-Unis, le total des recettes des Iles Philippines pendant le mois de janvier 1900, s'est élevé à \$557,308.50.

Les recettes provenaient des sources suivantes:

Droits de douane.....	\$420,500.00
Impôts de l'intérieur.....	97,000.00
Diverses recettes.....	98,803.50
Total .....	557,308.50

#### INVENTION D'UN THERMOSTAT.

D'après le journal "The Engineer" on vient d'inventer un thermostat qui sert à prévenir la combustion spontanée dans les charbonneries.

On place au milieu de chaque cube de 10 pieds de charbon, soit horizontalement ou verticalement, un thermostat à soudure fondante protégé par un tuyau de fer. Le thermostat à deux points d'opération, l'un à 150° et l'autre à 286°, et quand ces deux points sont atteints une sonnerie annonce l'approche du feu.

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## MEXIQUE.

### RÉFÉCTION DU CHEMIN DE FER INTEROCÉANIQUE DE TEHUANTEPEC.

En vertu de la convention conclue le 11 novembre dernier entre le Département des travaux publics et la maison PEARSON, cette dernière s'engage à mettre en bon état le chemin de fer de Tehuantepec et à construire les deux ports de Coatzacoalcos et Salina Cruz. En retour, elle obtient, pour une période de cinquante ans, à partir de l'achèvement des travaux, les produits de l'exportation du chemin de fer et les droits qui seront perçus dans les ports. Elle reçoit, en outre, une subvention de 5 millions de piastres.

Coatzacoalcos n'exigera pas des travaux très considérables; mais à Salina Cruz on ne pourra créer un port qu'en construisant deux môles immenses avec une dépense évaluée dès maintenant à 15 millions de piastres.

Quand cette entreprise sera terminée, ce qui exigera au moins quatre ou cinq ans, les relations commerciales entre l'Europe et les Etats mexicains situés sur le versant du Pacifique seront grandement facilitées.

### TRAVAUX PUBLICS PROJÉTÉS.

Afin d'utiliser les 4,000,000 piastres qui restaient disponibles à la fin des exercices précédents, M. JOSÉ YVES LIMANTOUR, Ministre des affaires étrangères, propose de construire: Des édifices pour écoles primaires et le ministère de l'instruction publique, 1,000,000 piastres; achèvement de l'hôpital-général, 500,000 piastres; édifices pour les instituts de médecine et de géologie, 200,000 piastres; hôtels des postes à Mexico, à Vera-cruz et à Puebla, \$1,000,000; un cable sous-marin entre Sonora et la baie de Californie, 300,000 piastres; matériel naval et de guerre et Ecole navale, 1,000,000 piastres.

### IMPORTANT CONTRAT.

M. le lic. JESÚS PESQUERA, agissant au nom de "La Canonea Consolidated Copper Co.," vient de signer un important contrat avec le gouvernement de l'Etat de Sonora.

Il s'agit de l'installation d'une grande usine pour le traitement des minerais. La compagnie est autorisée à construire une ligne de chemins de fer et à établir des lignes télégraphiques reliant ses mines à l'endroit où elle installera son usine. La compagnie est exempte de certains droits et jouit de certains privilèges. Elle devra justifier que dans les dix-huit mois qui suivront la signature de ce contrat, elle aura dépensé au moins \$300,000 pour la construction de la fonderie et dans les travaux des mines. Un dépôt de \$5,000 garantit l'exécution du contrat.

#### LES BANQUES DU MEXIQUE.

M. C. J. BLORKLUND, vice-consul d'Angleterre à Mexico (et qui exerce actuellement, par *intérim*, les fonctions de consul), vient d'adresser à son gouvernement un rapport très circonstancié sur la situation des banques établies au Mexique.

Ce rapport signale la solidité de ces établissements et la sagesse des lois qui les régissent.

#### LE PORT DE MANZANILLO.

Des travaux importants vont être entrepris dans le port de Manzanillo afin de le rendre accessible aux bateaux de fort tonnage. Le gouvernement a signé avec des entrepreneurs Américains un contrat pour l'exécution de ces travaux dont le coût s'élèvera à \$1,800,000. Le port sera approfondi et des môles seront construits pour permettre aux bateaux d'aborder à quai. En outre, d'importants travaux seront exécutés pour l'assainissement de la ville.

#### SANATORIUM POUR TUBERCULEUX.

Une compagnie des Etats-Unis a, paraît-il, formé le projet d'établir à Oaxaca un sanatorium pour tuberculeux. Le capital souscrit pour l'installation de cet établissement serait de 100,000 piastres. On sait que le climat de Oaxaca est un des plus favorables à la guérison de la tuberculose. Un médecin américain est actuellement à Oaxaca et se livre à des études sur les tuberculeux qui sont venus chercher la santé dans cette ville.

#### COMPAGNIE MINIÈRE.

Une compagnie minière vient de se former pour exploiter sur une grande échelle différentes mines de cuivre, de cinabre et de plomb. Cette compagnie s'est constituée au capital de deux millions de piastres. Plusieurs ingénieurs se trouvent actuellement sur les lieux pour dresser les plans en vue de l'exploitation.

#### NOUVELLE VOIE FERRÉE.

Plusieurs capitalistes et agriculteurs se sont réunis dernièrement à Apizaco, sous la présidence de Mr. le Colonel PROSPERO CAHUANTZI,

gouverneur de Tlaxcala, dans le but de former une société pour la construction d'un chemin de fer qui réunirait Apizaco à Tlaxco et desservirait les principales "haciendas."

#### EXPOSITION D'AUTOMOBILES.

Un américain a l'intention d'ouvrir à Mexico une exposition d'automobiles. Il est parti pour New-York où il va réunir tous les éléments de cette exposition et d'où il amènera un grand nombre de machines de différents systèmes.

#### MINE DE RUBIS.

On raconte qu'un indigène vient de découvrir au Cerro de la Cruz, Hidalgo del Parral, Onihuahua, un gisement de rubis.

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### VÉNÉZUÉLA.

#### NOUVEAU DROIT D'EXPORTATION SUR LE BÉTAIL.

Il résulte d'une communication du Gérant du Vice-Consulat de France à Caracas que le gouvernement vénézuélien vient de frapper d'un droit de 10 bolivars par tête le bétail destiné à l'exportation.

#### FERMETURE DU PORT DE MARACAÏBO.

Le Vice-Consul de France au Vénézuéla vient de faire savoir à son gouvernement, qu'aux termes d'un décret récemment publié dans la "Gazette Officielle," le port de Maracaïbo est fermé au commerce d'importation et d'exportation. Le blocus sera rendu effectif par les vapeurs *Miranda* et *Zamora*.

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### BIBLIOGRAPHIE.

Les livres et les brochures qui seront envoyés au Bureau des Républiques Américaines et qui contiendront des sujets ou matières traitant des pays de l'Union internationale des Républiques Américaines, seront mentionnés dans le Bulletin Mensuel sous le titre "Bibliographie."

"Die Insel Haiti" (Île d'Haïti), par L. GENTIL TIPPENHAUER, F. A. Brockhaus, Leipsic, 1893. La Bibliothèque du Bureau a dernièrement fait l'acquisition de cet ouvrage précieux dont l'auteur est depuis longtemps connu comme un explorateur de cette République, sur laquelle il a fait paraître de nombreux écrits traitant principalement de la géologie de cette île où il est né. Il explique que son but, en publiant ce livre en allemand, a été de donner, avec toute l'impartialité pos-

sible, des explications claires et précises sur les conditions existantes de l'île, afin d'éveiller l'intérêt des étrangers sur ce pays admirable. Ce travail est divisé en trois parties principales qui sont elles-mêmes subdivisées en parties et en chapitres. De cette façon, chaque détail est soigneusement mentionné et indiqué dans la table des matières, et les données sont des plus utiles et peuvent être trouvées facilement. L'histoire, l'orohydrographie, les conditions météorologiques et physiques, la faune et la flore, le commerce et l'industrie y sont tous traités d'une manière concise. Le peuple, leur langue, leur religion, les institutions sociales et politiques sont soumis à une analyse critique par l'auteur qui s'est efforcé de décrire la situation du pays telle qu'elle existe actuellement. Ce volume a 693 pages, contient une grande quantité d'illustrations, de nombreuses cartes géologiques et des tableaux statistiques auxquels est jointe une bibliographie complète, depuis l'année 1500 jusqu'à ce jour.

Les publications de la "Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin" (Société géographique, Berlin) acquises récemment par la Bibliothèque du Bureau, contiennent plusieurs articles intéressants sur un nombre de pays du nouveau continent. Parmi eux est une description du voyage que M. le Dr. EDOUARD SELER a entrepris au Mexique (Vol. XXIII, 1896, No. 3) et aussi l'itinéraire de son voyage à Guatémala (Vol. XXIV, 1897, No. 7). Le Dr. CARL SAPPER a écrit plusieurs articles sur les investigations faites dans la République de Honduras et d'autres pays de l'Amérique Centrale (Vol. XXIV, 1897, No. 7; Vol. XXV, 1898, No. 56). M. WILHELM SIEVERS a fait paraître un article des plus importants sur Saint-Domingue (Vol. XXXIII, 1898, No. 5) qu'il a préparé au moyen de notes laissées par feu RICHARD LUDWIG. M. LUDWIG qui était un explorateur infatigable est mort avant de pouvoir publier le résultat de ses travaux. M. SIEVERS dit que les explorations tentées à Saint-Domingue sont tellement rares, qu'il sent qu'il a rendu un réel service en collationnant ces données. La carte SCHOMBURK de l'Haïti Central, sur laquelle M. SIEVERS a indiqué les routes parcourues par M. LUDWIG, forme une partie de l'article.

Le Département de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis vient de publier une feuille volante (Circulaire No. 21) au sujet de "l'igname dans les Antilles" (Yams in the West Indies), par Mr. DAVID G. FAIRCHILD, explorateur agricole. Pendant le mois de janvier 1899, le Ministère de l'Agriculture importa de la Jamaïque et de Barbados une grande quantité d'igname (*Discorea* spp.) pour être distribuée principalement dans la Floride où elle fut semée, à titre d'essai, pendant la saison passée, par un nombre d'expérimentateurs. Dans les Etats du Sud on a déjà cultivé plusieurs variétés d'igname, mais en moins grande quantité et d'une qualité inférieure à celle des Antilles. L'auteur décrit les différentes espèces qui se trouvent dans les Antilles et ses conclusions sont que

l'iguane des Antilles ne supplantera pas, comme légume, les patates, mais que les différentes variétés seront une excellente acquisition pour l'agriculture dans les régions tropicales, aux Etats-Unis et dans les nouvelles possessions insulaires. Les meilleures variétés qui possèdent une saveur caractéristique occuperont indubitablement une place importante sur les marchés des Etats du Nord des Etats-Unis.

Une des publications les plus précieuses qu'ait fait paraître le Département de l'Intérieur pendant l'année fiscale 1898-1899 a été la carte des Etats-Unis, dressée sous la direction du Directeur du Bureau du Cadastre. En outre, des autres détails qui caractérisent habituellement de telles cartes, ces dernières montrent, au moyen de lignes de démarcation clairement définies, après des investigations minutieuses, les divers territoires acquis par le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis, dans le Continent Occidental. Le Ministre de l'Intérieur, en discutant la question, dit qu'une copie de cette carte pourrait bien être placée dans chaque maison d'éducation et principalement dans chaque école publique du pays. Les cartes qui sont attachées à des rouleaux et prêtes à être consultées sont vendues par le Département, au prix modéré de 80 cents la copie.

M. HENRI JALHAY, ancien consul de la République majeure de l'Amérique Centrale, vient de publier une nouvelle brochure ayant pour titre: "La République de Nicaragua." Cette brochure contient des renseignements des plus intéressants sur une région généralement peu connue. La topographie avec indication des zones d'habitat, des différentes productions végétales; le régime des eaux, les principales richesses minières, y sont successivement étudiés. Cette brochure contient en outre l'exposé des grandes divisions administratives du pays, de ses voies de communications intérieures et des lignes de navigation qui le desservent. Elle donne enfin un aperçu de l'état de l'agriculture, du commerce et de l'industrie du Nicaragua.

Le rapport de la Commission du Canal de Nicaragua, 1897-1899, publié par la "Friedenwald Company," de Baltimore, Md., vient de parvenir au Bureau. Cette commission, nommée par le Président, en vertu d'un acte approuvé le 4 juin 1897, reçut les instructions nécessaires pour continuer les travaux d'arpentage et autres, conformément à l'acte approuvé le 2 mars 1795, dans le but de faire des études élaborées et soigneuses et terminer les plans pour l'entière construction du Canal de Nicaragua. Les membres qui faisaient partie de cette commission étaient: M. le Contre-Amiral JOHN G. WALKER, U. S. N., président; M. PETER C. HAINES, Colonel du Génie, U. S. A. et M. LEWIS M. HAUPT, professeur. Le rapport de la Commission joint à ceux des sous-ingénieurs, forme un ouvrage de 502 pages, renfermant de nombreuses illustrations et des diagrammes expliquant le texte. Un atlas qui contient les cartes suivantes est joint à cet ouvrage.

## CARTES.

No. 1.—En 4 feuilles:

Feuille No. 1.—Carte générale de la région du Canal de Nicaragua.

Feuille No. 2.—Géologie de la région du Canal de Nicaragua.

Feuilles Nos. 3 et 4.—Hydrologie de la région du Canal.

No. 2.—En 3 feuilles, montrant les lignes projetées du Canal de Nicaragua sur une échelle de 1 pouce par 5,000 pieds.

No. 3.—En 20 feuilles et un index, montrant les lignes projetées du Canal de Nicaragua sur une échelle de 1 pouce par 1,500 pieds.

No. 4.—Le port de Greytown.

No. 5.—Hydrographie du port de Brito.

No. 6.—Hydrographie de la côte des Antilles depuis le fleuve Indio jusqu'à l'embouchure du fleuve Colorado.

No. 7.—Le lac Nicaragua.

## PROFILS.

No. 1.—En 2 feuilles, montrant la route Lull, variante No. 1, côté est.

No. 2.—En 2 feuilles, montrant la route Menocal, côté est.

No. 3.—Montrant la route Childs, variante I, côté ouest.

No. 4.—Montrant la route Childs, variante II, côté ouest.

No. 5.—Montrant les chemins de fer projetés depuis Greytown jusqu'à Rio Savalos.

No. 6.—Montrant les lignes de chemin de fer projetées depuis le lac Nicaragua jusqu'à l'Océan Pacifique.

Tableaux numériques pour les différentes routes du Canal de Nicaragua.

Planche XIXa.—Diagramme des niveaux du lac.

Le Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis a publié récemment une brochure préparée par Mr. ALMONT BARNES, qui a pour titre: "Keeping Goats for Profit," et qui est une reproduction de l'annuaire du Département pour l'année 1898. Cette question est aussi importante aujourd'hui pour les agriculteurs et les éleveurs qu'elle l'était autrefois quand leur attention y fut attirée pour la première fois. Le plus grand profit de cette industrie est la peau de ces animaux. Avant 1864, les peaux de chèvres étaient si peu demandées qu'elles n'étaient pas classées séparément pour les droits d'importation. En 1898 la valeur des peaux de chèvres importées se montait, d'après les factures, à \$15,776,601, soit un prix moyen de 24.3 cents par livre pour 64,906,485 livres. Le prix moyen du marché payé par les consommateurs du pays, pour leur propre usage, était 39.3 cents par livre, soit 62 pour cent au-dessus du prix de facture ou \$25,508,249. Le nombre de chèvres taxées dans plusieurs Etats et Territoires s'est monté à 374,980 et dans les Etats où ces animaux sont exempts d'impôts ou qui ne font aucune distinction sur leurs tarifs des droits entre les moutons et les chèvres, ou bien qui les comprennent dans l'item "autre bétail" (other stock), le nombre est estimé à 500,000. Le nombre de chèvres angora qui se trouvent aux Etats-Unis a été estimé, par une autorité compétente, à 247,775, variant de 50 dans quelques Etats à 75,000 dans l'Etat de Texas. Mais, que l'estimation du nombre soit trop grande ou trop petite, l'approvisionnement du pays ne satisfait pas aux demandes. Si toutes les chèvres du pays étaient élevées seulement dans le but d'approvisionner de peaux le marché, ce qui n'est pas le cas, elles



n'arriveraient pas à satisfaire une petite fraction des demandes actuelles. A quatre livres la peau, il faudrait que l'on égorgeât 16,226,621 chèvres pour arriver au poids des peaux de ces animaux importées en 1898. Dans son intéressant rapport, Mr. BARNES fait remarquer qu'il existe dans le pays certaines régions où différentes variétés de chèvres peuvent parfaitement bien s'acclimater; il parle du pâturage excellent, de l'amélioration des terres sur lesquelles elles broutent, du nombre et de l'habileté des laboureurs, du but de l'élevage de ces animaux et du nombre de chèvres qui existent dans le monde. L'auteur arrive aux conclusions suivantes: Que les Etats-Unis ont besoin annuellement de \$25,000,000 au moins de peaux de chèvres; que le marché pourrait être approvisionné par les produits du pays; que la plus grande partie de l'étendue actuelle, 265,000,000 acres de la terre inculte des fermes, est propre à l'élevage des chèvres; que ces terres sont situées principalement là où le travail des nègres peut être utilisé; que les produits qui en dérivent, tels que le lait, le poil, la peau des chevreaux, pourraient couvrir au delà la valeur des produits des chèvres actuellement importés, laissant au producteur la valeur des peaux comme profit net; que les peaux de chèvres dont les fabricants des Etats-Unis ont constamment besoin proviennent des pays qui achètent très peu aux Etats-Unis.

M. HENRI LECOMTE, agrégé de l'Université, professeur au Lycée Saint-Louis (France), vient de faire paraître un volume in-8vo de 342 pages, avec 60 figures et une carte dont le titre est: Le Café—Culture, Manipulation, Production. L'auteur dit dans sa préface qu'il n'a pas eu d'autre ambition que de réunir, de résumer et de classer les renseignements utiles aux planteurs. Et l'ouvrage est en effet un résumé méthodique et complet de nos connaissances sur le café au point de vue agricole et industriel. Le planteur désireux d'améliorer ses procédés de culture ou de manipulation y trouvera des documents précieux. Après un court historique, M. LECOMTE décrit les principales espèces du genre *coffea*, leur classification et leurs caractères botaniques. Il étudie ensuite les conditions de climat et d'altitude les plus favorables au caféier. M. LECOMTE insiste avec raison sur l'utilité qu'il y a, avant d'entreprendre une plantation de quelque importance, à faire l'analyse du sol, et non seulement l'analyse chimique mais aussi l'analyse mécanique et l'analyse physico-chimique. A cette question de composition du sol est en effet liée celle des engrais dont l'auteur préconise vivement l'emploi. La nature et la quantité des engrais qu'il faut donner aux caféiers dépend de la composition chimique du sol; mais elle doit être réglée aussi d'après le prélèvement opéré par les récoltes. L'épuisement du sol par la culture est loin d'être négligeable, puisque 3,889 kilos de café en cerises, correspondant à 1,000 kilos de café marchand, enlèvent au sol 29 kilos de potasse, 24 kilos d'azote et 4 kilos d'acide phosphorique. L'enfouissement des pulpes et des parches restituent

14 kilos de potasse, 7 kilos d'azote et 1 kilo d'acide phosphorique; le complément peut être donné par l'emploi de cendres de bois, de fumier de ferme et de phosphates. M. LECOMTE relate les expériences entreprises par DAFERT, à l'Institut agricole de Santo-Paulo (Brésil), qui ont mis en évidence le rôle important que jouent les matières organiques dans l'assimilation des engrais; ce qui explique l'action favorable du fumier, des tourteaux et des engrais verts. L'auteur traite ensuite de la préparation du café; il décrit les méthodes anciennes et les nouvelles. De nombreuses figures rendent claires les descriptions des diverses manutentions que nécessite la préparation du café par la méthode humide ou la méthode sèche. Les planteurs doivent lutter contre les ennemis et les maladies du caféier qui sont assez nombreux. Dans la maladie vermiculaire, les racines sont attaquées par des insectes; d'autres parasites attaquent le tronc et les branches; l'élachiste produit la rouille des feuilles, etc. Parmi les champignons parasites, l'*Hemilea* qui attaque les feuilles a causé la ruine des plantations de Ceylon, de l'Inde, de Java, etc. On combat maintenant cette maladie par des pulvérisations de bouillies cupriques, analogues à celles que l'on emploie pour les vignes.

L'auteur traite ensuite de la chimie et du caféier; il donne la composition chimique des différentes parties du caféier; il établit les comptes de culture; nous renseigne sur la production et le commerce des cafés, avec des indications statistiques abondantes; puis il décrit les succédanés du café.

# MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

## BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

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VOL. VIII.

MARCH, 1900.

No. 3.

### ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

#### THE GOLD CURRENCY LAWS.

The Chambers of Congress of the Nation sanction the following laws (which were promulgated on November 4, 1899):

ARTICLE I. The nation shall convert the entire amount of the notes in circulation into national gold dollars at the rate of 44 cents gold per dollar paper.

ART. II. The Executive shall hereafter decree with three months' anticipation the date of such conversion and the manner in which it is to be carried into effect.

ART. III. The Executive shall begin to form a metallic reserve fund under the name of "conversion fund," which is to serve exclusively as a guaranty for the said conversion.

ART. IV. For the formation of this conversion fund the following amounts are to be reserved:

1. Five per cent additional duties on imports.
2. The profits of the Bank of the Nation.
3. The annual net proceeds of the liquidation of the National Bank after payment of the costs of liquidation, the debts of the bank, and the service of the bonds.
4. The proceeds of the sale of the Andine and Toma railways.
5. The \$6,967,650 gold in national *cédulas* belonging to the nation.
6. Whatever may be voted annually for this object by the Budget of the nation.

ART. V. The before-mentioned amounts are to be deposited in the Bank of the Nation in the following form and at the respective dates mentioned:

1. The proceeds of the 5 per cent additional duty on imports shall be

deposited daily in the Bank of the Nation or its branches from the date of the present bill.

2. The profits of the Bank of the Nation shall be ascertained half-yearly by the bank itself, be converted into gold, and credited to the conversion fund.

3. The surplus resulting from the annual liquidation of the National Bank shall be paid to the Bank of the Nation, be converted into gold, and similarly credited.

4. The \$6,967,650 gold in national *cédulas* shall be negotiated by the Executive with the National Hypothecary Bank and the proceeds paid to the Bank of the Nation on the dates which may be deemed most convenient.

5. The proceeds of the sale of the Andine and Toma railways shall be paid when received to the Bank of the Nation.

ART. VI. The Bank of the Nation shall employ the conversion fund exclusively for the negotiation of drafts on foreign countries. The Executive shall make special regulations for this office.

ART. VII. Until the decree has been issued which is referred to in Article II, fixing the date and manner of effecting the conversion of the currency, the Caja de Conversión shall deliver to everyone who may solicit notes of the legal currency in exchange for gold coin in the proportion before mentioned, and shall deliver the gold received in this manner to those who solicit it in exchange for paper money at the same rate. A special account of the paper thus issued in exchange for gold is to be kept.

ART. VIII. The gold which the Caja de Conversión receives by this conversion of paper may not be, under any circumstances or by virtue of any order, used for any other purpose save that of converting notes at the fixed rates, under the personal responsibility of the members of the Caja or its employees who may consent to such act.

ART. IX. The taxes payable to the nation in gold or paper money may be paid in either, indiscriminately, at the fixed rate.

The Chambers of Congress of the Nation also sanction the following law:

ART. I. The Executive shall acquire from the Bank of the Nation the \$15,873,700 in bonds of the internal loan of 1891, law 2782, which the bank withdrew from circulation in fulfillment of article 30 of its organic law. These bonds shall be paid for in gold or in bills of exchange at ninety days on foreign countries, at the rate of 75 per cent of their nominal value and at the current rate of exchange.

ART. II. Out of the proceeds of these bonds, the Bank of the Nation shall use \$4,000,000, gold, as metallic capital.

ART. III. The Executive is authorized to negotiate, at home or abroad, the sale of the bonds acquired from the bank in fulfillment of this law.

**BRITISH REVIEW OF THE FINANCES.**

Mr. F. S. CLARKE, Secretary of the British Legation at Buenos Ayres, reporting on the finances of the Republic for 1898-99 (Annual Series No. 2381, Diplomatic and Consular Reports of Great Britain), states that by special laws passed in 1882 and 1890, the Executive Power intrusted MADERO & SONS with the construction of the ports and docks, and empowered them to issue bonds up to \$20,000,000, gold. Subsequently the firm went into liquidation, the Government buying back for £785,616 bonds of the nominal value of £1,169,400—70 per cent of their nominal value. To effect this a loan of £800,000 was obtained in London for two years at 6 per cent, guaranteed by the Buenos Ayres port bonds.

The liquidation of the National Bank is proceeding unattended with difficulties. Its debt has been diminished by \$7,874,032, paper, and \$1,818,185, gold. The profit of the National Mortgage Bank in 1898 came to \$1,665,528, paper, and \$34,771, gold; a sum that has been placed to its reserve fund.

The ordinary revenue of the State during 1898, the last financial year, amounted to \$33,878,267, gold, and \$49,744,214, paper (about £10,755,000 in all), and the extraordinary resources brought the total up to \$48,887,130, gold, and \$116,222,112, paper (about £19,075,000 in all). The expenditures, according to Mr. CLARKE, reached a total of £24,497,000: exceeding the revenues by £5,422,000.

**REPORT OF THE CONSULATE-GENERAL AT NEW YORK.**

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to the courtesy of Señor CARLOS RÖHL, Consul-General of the Argentine Republic at New York, for the following notes from his annual report to his Government. The Consul-General very kindly offers to furnish detailed particulars to such persons as are desirous to secure fuller information with respect to any items. Señor RÖHL writes as follows:

“According to the statistics kept in this office the sailings from the United States to Argentine ports in 1899 were: Steamers 65, 110,516 tons; other vessels 193, 170,365 tons; total, 258 vessels, 280,881 tons. In 1898, 254 vessels, 237,672 tons.

“The sailings from Argentine ports for United States ports in 1899 were 24 steamers of 23,384 tonnage and 50 sailing vessels of 35,495 tonnage, or a total of 64 vessels of 58,879 tons burden. The sailings in 1898 were 70 vessels of 59,572 tons burden.

“Owing to the high duty on wool, forbidding large shipments from the Argentine Republic to the United States, the return tonnage is considerably below the quantity cleared from the United States to Argentine ports. Most of the steamers dispatched from New York

take grain and wool cargoes from the Argentine Republic for European ports before returning to the United States.

“The shipment of merchandise from the United States to Argentine ports was much larger in 1899 than in 1898, according to the statistics kept at this consulate-general, which show the following amounts:

From—	To—	
New York .....	Buenos Ayres .....	\$9,452,139
Do. ....	Rosario .....	1,210,391
Do. ....	Bahia Blanca .....	13,766
Boston .....	Buenos Ayres .....	492,240
Do. ....	Rosario .....	33,957
Portland .....	Buenos Ayres .....	140,260
Do. ....	Rosario .....	32,250
Do. ....	Bahia Blanca .....	7,000
Pensacola .....	Buenos Ayres .....	414,261
Do. ....	Rosario .....	12,862
Do. ....	Bahia Blanca .....	21,220
Philadelphia .....	Buenos Ayres .....	43,477
Do. ....	Bahia Blanca .....	4,846
Do. ....	La Plata .....	8,050
Pascagoula .....	Buenos Ayres .....	38,331
Do. ....	Rosario .....	6,762
Mobile .....	Buenos Ayres .....	178,509
Do. ....	Rosario .....	71,590
Apalachicola .....	Buenos Ayres .....	35,161
Do. ....	Rosario .....	8,536
Brunswick .....	Buenos Ayres .....	18,109
Do. ....	Rosario .....	4,943
Savannah .....	Buenos Ayres .....	92,022
Baltimore .....	do. ....	18,604
Puget Sound .....	do. ....	9,580
Norfolk .....	La Plata .....	10,000
Total exports.....	.....	12,378,866

in 1898 .....	\$8,066,573
In 1897 .....	5,942,902

“The importations from the Argentine Republic to the United States in 1899, according to the statistics of this Consulate-General, were:

Articles.	Port.	Quantities.	Value.
Wool (Class I) .....	New York .....	628,540 pounds .....	\$81,279
Do. ....	Boston .....	2,775,843 pounds .....	373,349
Wool (III) .....	New York .....	560,112 pounds .....	43,088
Do. ....	Boston .....	6,072,725 pounds .....	461,587
Hides .....	New York .....	437,000 hides .....	1,602,608
Do. ....	Boston .....	483,000 hides .....	1,733,817
Goatskins .....	New York .....	2,840,303 pounds .....	616,493
Do. ....	Boston .....	574 bales .....	174,620
Sundry skins .....	New York .....	.....	313,225
Do. ....	Boston .....	.....	31,409
Do. ....	Philadelphia .....	.....	41,035
Horsehair .....	New York .....	.....	195,786
Do. ....	Boston .....	.....	75,714
Feathers .....	New York .....	42 cases .....	31,029
Bones .....	do. ....	2,535 tons .....	48,909
Do. ....	Philadelphia .....	8,206 tons .....	143,612
Quebracho .....	New York .....	.....	75,348
Tripe .....	do. ....	.....	66,716
Articles returned .....	do. ....	.....	9,914
Rags .....	do. ....	135,332 pounds .....	3,331
Personal effects .....	do. ....	.....	5,228
Books .....	do. ....	.....	10,383
Chemicals .....	do. ....	.....	23,789
Various .....	do. ....	.....	2,772
Total importations .....	.....	.....	6,164,961

In 1898 .....	\$5,723,969
In 1897 .....	14,759,730

“It is pleasing to note that American manufacturers and commission merchants are paying more attention to Argentine markets and their needs, resulting in a gradual increase of trade and better acquaintance with their requirements and general mode of transacting business. This is largely due to the increased influx of American traveling salesmen and representatives, who thus place themselves on an equal footing with the Europeans, this being practically the only successful way of cementing the commercial relations between the two countries.”

#### DIMINUTION OF THE DEATH RATE IN BUENOS AYRES.

The following is a translation of part of an article published by “El Pais” of Buenos Ayres, in its issue for January 5, 1900, relative to the death rate of that city:

“In the year 1899 the total number of deaths within the city and municipality of Buenos Ayres was 14,908; but deducting 1,342, which was the number of stillbirths, and not taken into account in universal statistics, it will be seen the real number of deaths was 13,566.

“The population of Buenos Ayres on December 31, 1898, was 765,744, according to the estimates published in the ‘Monthly Bulletin of Municipal Statistics.’ This same Bulletin, under date of November 30, estimated the population then at 792,013, and, adding the difference between birth and death rate for December and the probable immigration of that month, it is estimated that on December 31, 1899, Buenos Ayres possessed a population of 795,000.

“The number of houses supplied with drainage was 24,805, November 30, and in round numbers 24,900 were supplied therewith on December 31, 1899.

“With these estimates, the table is complete showing the population and death rate of this capital during the last ten years, as follows:

*Population and death rate in the city of Buenos Ayres.*

Year.	Population.	Deaths.		Houses with drainage.
		Total.	Per 1,000 inhabitants.	
1890 .....	547,144	16,417	30.0	2,287
1891 .....	535,060	13,014	24.0	4,349
1892 .....	554,713	13,341	24.1	10,309
1893 .....	580,371	13,000	22.4	15,002
1894 .....	603,012	13,702	22.7	18,096
1895 .....	663,854	14,947	22.5	20,148
1896 .....	712,095	13,645	19.2	22,099
1897 .....	738,484	14,216	19.2	23,424
1898 .....	765,744	13,533	17.7	24,120
1899 .....	795,000	13,566	17.1	24,900

“Since 1890, when the drainage system was commenced, the death rate has diminished in proportion as the number of houses provided with this system increased. In the last few years, Buenos Ayres,

which before 1890 was one of the most unhealthy cities, with an annual death rate of from 25 to 30 persons for each 1,000 inhabitants, has improved to the point where it may be classed among the healthiest of cities. In a list of 90 chief cities of the world, Buenos Ayres occupies the fourteenth or fifteenth place, with a death rate of not more than 17 per thousand, while cities as important as Rome, London, Philadelphia, New York, Vienna, Budapest, and Liverpool have a death rate of from 18 to 25 per thousand. The diminution in Buenos Ayres in 1899, with respect to the previous year, is six-tenths per thousand, a proportion which should be considered great, as it was calculated upon figures which were already very low."

### MINING DEVELOPMENT.

The mining industry of the northwestern Provinces of the Republic is being developed to a greater extent than ever before, under the supervision of syndicates composed of Belgian capitalists. In the Province of Rioja, near Famatina, a valuable concession of land has been obtained by a Belgian company which will mine for silver and lead that exist in large quantities. The company working in Nonogasta reports a very successful year in 1899, and that it has purchased more property, some of which contained veins of silver. According to the report of a mining engineer, in Famatina, that region incloses immense mineral riches, very little of which has yet been exploited.

A syndicate has been formed in Brussels with a capital of \$2,000,000, gold, for the purpose of exploiting the borax deposits in Jujuy and Salta. The product will be exported to Europe, where it has a very good market.

During the past few months the export of minerals from Rioja has included 42,323 kilos of copper. One Belgian company has expended 300,000 *francs* in the acquisition of machinery, which has been ordered from Europe. In the Province of Jujuy, borate fields are being worked, several concessions having been granted recently, but up to January 1, only 120 tons had been marketed. The copper mines in Tilcara, the silver mines of Santa Rosa, and the coal and petroleum mines in San Pedro are all being developed. In Mendoza and Córdoba, some very fine marble quarries have been discovered; in Salta there are good borax and also copper mines; in Catamarca gold and silver have been discovered; in the Cuyo Provinces in the north various mining interests are being developed, and in San Juan the old mines, with new and modern machinery, are giving good results, especially the gold mine of Morada.

### THE DESTRUCTION OF LOCUSTS.

A recent number of "La Agricultura," of Buenos Ayres, contains cuts and a description of a novel device which may be termed a



"locust harvester." "La Agricultura" says: "The locust constitutes the nightmare of our farmers and ranchmen, who see disappear in a few hours the labor of years, due to the ravenous action of this terrible insect." In commending the machine in question, the invention of a local firm, the journal referred to does so because of the fact that besides accomplishing the work for which it is designed the invention is low priced.

The apparatus is constructed mainly of wood. A large, oblong, covered box, upon supports 10 or 12 feet high, presents a wide aperture in front through which the insects are to enter. Leading to this is an inclined plane (termed a *trampolin*) wide at the end resting upon the ground and gradually narrowing toward the upper end, protected on each side by zinc sheets about 12 inches high, over which it is impossible for the young locusts to escape. From these side pieces are extended other barriers of the same height and about 160 feet long, each of which is set up edgewise and when in use so secured at such distances apart at the outer extremities as to afford a wide entrance to the locusts. The swarms of insects are driven toward this inclosure and readily ascend the *trampolin*, which is painted green (the color of the foliage), into the box, which is then closed until another swarm is collected and driven in, two men being required for this work.

The apparatus for destroying the locusts is described as a roller sustaining a cylinder of iron similar in form to a coffee mill or roaster. The cylinder is covered with knives extended obliquely and revolves between high side pieces which almost touch it at their lower extremities and is revolved by a crank. This machine is attached to the back of the box containing the imprisoned locusts, which are allowed to drop into it, when they are cut to pieces. After this the remains of the insects are sold for fertilizing purposes, "there being a constant demand in Europe." Thus an alarming pest is converted into an article of commerce.

An easier method of destroying locusts has, however, been discovered, according to reports which come from Cape Colony, South Africa. In 1895 the locusts in that part of the world appear to have been almost destroyed by an epidemic, and investigations carried on by Mr. M. S. EVANS seemed to prove conclusively that the disease was the result of feeding upon a fungus growth now known as "locust fungus," and that a few insects affected with the malady might communicate it to millions of others. After repeated experiments in the Bacteriological Institute at Grahamstown, Cape Colony, a pure culture is said to have been obtained from the locust fungus and the insects died that were brought in contact with it at the Institute.

In 1897 experiments were carried on in a large scale. Immense swarms of locusts perished after the infection of a number of individuals in each group. It was also found that the best results were

obtained during the periods of rain, when the locusts remain longer in one place and the spread of the infection was thus facilitated. In dry weather the flight of the insects is more rapid, and the sick ones being left behind there is less chance for the spread of the disease. It is reported that the Bacteriological Institute now sends out the culture from the locust fungus with directions for its use in tubes which may be conveyed a thousand miles or more.

A few years ago, when the ravages of locusts threatened agriculture in the Argentine Republic with general destruction, a national commission was appointed by the Government with authority to take such steps as seemed advisable for arresting this plague. After fully investigating the habits and movements of these insects, the commission determined to offer bounties to those who would destroy them; or rather they agreed to buy at a fixed price per pound all locusts killed and eggs gathered. During the six months that ended December 31, 1899, the national commission, through its many local subdivisions, paid out sums aggregating \$350,000, paper currency, for about 27,000,000 pounds of locusts and locust eggs. In commenting upon this, "*La Agricultura*" says that though the quantity of these insects and their eggs destroyed appears to be enormous, it is small compared with the immense swarms and prodigious quantities of eggs that are still to be seen; and that at the rate the money is being paid out, for this cause, the cost of the destruction of locusts will amount, perhaps, to more than the money value of the damages they might commit.

Regarding the use of the organic matter of which the locust is composed as a fertilizer, the Department of Agriculture of the Argentine Republic has published a report on the subject by Mr. J. KÜCKEL DE HERCULAI, of which the following is a part:

These insects may be turned to advantageous account by being previously dried and prepared. From the point of view of richness in nitrogen, the writer says, the locust may be compared with the best guano. Before the insect can be utilized it is necessary to dry it, because decomposition is very speedy. The drying process is carried on by means of large cylindrical boilers, similar to those employed in the washing of rags for paper. The insects are thrown into these cylinders and submitted to a steam pressure of from 75 to 120 pounds per square inch. This transforms the organic matter into a blackish, nitrogenous substance, which passes from a liquid, when hot, to a solid state when cold. An analysis of this latter substance shows 11.25 per cent of nitrogen, and it has the advantage of preserving its qualities when stored away for any length of time. By adding from 1 to 2 per cent of lime and one-half of one per cent of phosphate of soda to the mass of insect matter in the boiler a still more convenient form of manure is obtained.

## STATISTICS OF THE WINE INDUSTRY.

The "Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina," of Buenos Ayres, for January 20, 1900, contains an interesting article on the vinicultural industry in the Provinces of Mendoza and San Juan. The article states that the wineries in the Provinces named are divided into five classes, based upon the amount of production of each. To the first class belong the establishments that produce more than 5,000 *bordalesas* (cask of 200 liters) each season. Of these there are 18 in Mendoza and 7 in San Juan. To the second class belong all the wineries whose annual production does not exceed 5,000 but is beyond 2,500 *bordalesas*. Of these there are 24 in Mendoza and 10 in San Juan.

The third class is composed of wineries producing from 500 to 2,500 *bordalesas*, there being 100 in Mendoza and 39 in San Juan. The fourth category is made up of wineries making between 200 and 500 *bordalesas*. There are 120 of these in Mendoza and 70 in San Juan. The fifth and last class is composed of wineries producing less than 200 *bordalesas* a year. Of these Mendoza has 838 and San Juan 440. The total capital invested in the Mendoza wineries is \$23,987,648, national currency, and in the San Juan wineries, \$5,837,829, national currency, which shows a total capital of \$29,825,477. In 1883 there were only 3,290 hectares in vineyards in the Provinces of Cuyo; at the present time it is estimated that there are 36,000 hectares under cultivation.

In 1895 there were exported from San Juan and Mendoza, for the consumption of the Republic, 55,000,000 liters of wine, and in 1898 the exports rose to 89,000,000 liters. In 1899 the yield in Mendoza alone was 102,400,000 liters. There exist in Mendoza and San Juan at this time 1,666 registered wineries, with stock on hand of over 15,000,000 liters. It must be borne in mind that this increase in quantity has been characterized by a greater advance in quality, owing to the progress made in the methods of manufacture and greater knowledge and ability on the part of the wine makers. The importation of foreign wines, which in 1890 amounted to 60,000,000 liters, in 1899 had fallen off to 36,000 liters. In 1890 the cask of 200 liters of ordinary wine was worth from \$70 to \$80 national currency, while at present it can be bought for from \$50 to \$60 national currency, with the premium on gold higher. The native wines paid, in 1898, internal-revenue taxes to the amount of \$2,000,000 national currency and in 1899 to the amount of \$2,500,000.

The "Boletín" adds that protection to this industry has shown the following results: It has increased the national capital to a sum greater than 30,000,000 *pesos* per annum, which is yearly increasing; the country has saved the value of 300,000 *bordalesas* of ordinary wine, which were formerly imported annually; it has increased the consumption, it has reduced the price, and there is collected in the way of

internal-revenue taxes what the Treasury fails to receive in the way of customs duties. This industry gives life to three Provinces and is the principal source of revenue to two great railway lines—the Great Western and the Pacific.

#### **THE AUTOMOBILE IN BUENOS AYRES.**

As has been noted by the "Scientific American," the use of the automobile in Buenos Ayres is rapidly increasing, and vehicles of the electric and petroleum types are now frequently met with. These include not only private carriages and bicycles, but also heavy delivery wagons. The fact that facilities for making repairs is lacking has been a drawback hitherto in the use of these vehicles, but as a result of their adoption this will soon be remedied, and besides, the condition of the roads is beginning to improve. A factor in the increase of these vehicles has been the formation of a touring club, founded by commercial men and influential amateurs. The new society will devote itself to the question of automobile interests, and one of the first steps has been the establishment in all the Provinces of the Republic of roads which are specially reserved for bicycles and light automobiles. These roads have already commenced to radiate from Buenos Ayres to a distance of 60 or 70 miles, and it is intended to continue the work until a good system of roads is established throughout the country.

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF THE PORT OF ROSARIO.**

The December, 1899, number of the "Bulletin of the French Chamber of Commerce" at Buenos Ayres publishes the following:

"The bill submitted by the Argentine Government authorizing the call for proposals for the construction of a port at Rosario de Santa Fé was voted by Congress and promulgated the 30th of last December.

"The only modification introduced by the Argentine Congress is the suppression of the paragraph providing that vessels destined to the port of Rosario be admitted without paying any duty or special tax.

"The Minister of Public Works is now occupied in preparing, in accord with the Engineering Department, the plans and specifications, in view of submitting the construction works of the port of Rosario to public bids.

"This work is of great importance and is certainly destined to a great future; for the port of Rosario, which is actually the second one of the Republic, is at the same time, by its geographical situation, the key to all the import and export trade with the north of the Republic."

#### **TARIFF ON ELECTRICAL MATERIAL.**

The following are the customs dues for electrical material imported during the current year:

Machinery, in general, 10 per cent ad valorem; iron or steel gal-

vanized wire, up to No. 14, 10 per cent; wire or cables, over 5 millimeters in diameter, for electrical purposes and the necessary articles for laying submarine cables, 10 per cent; plants for public electric-lighting stations, 10 per cent; automobiles, 10 per cent.

Rails, tiebars, wedges, chairs, and all material necessary for electric traction purposes are admitted duty free.

#### WEAVING AND HAT FACTORIES.

The "Review of the River Plate" states that there are 16 weaving factories in the Republic, with a capital of \$10,000,000 paper, which give employment to 6,200 people, of whom 5,200 are women and 600 children under 14 years of age. All the raw material for these factories is imported from Europe. In some instances, the raw material, such as wool, is exported from the Argentine Republic and, after being prepared in Europe, is returned in the form of yarn.

The hat factories are represented by a capital of \$10,000,000. There are 227 factories, giving employment to 6,700 hands, of whom 2,300 are women and children. Only 30 of the factories employ steam power. Of the material used in manufacturing, wool is the only home product, and of those made of hair only 30 per cent are manufactured from the home product, the remainder of the material being imported. A Belgian company is preparing to establish a factory in Buenos Ayres for preparing all the hair required in the hat factories of the River Plate region.

#### HOME AND FOREIGN DEBT.

The "Pais," a new daily paper started in Buenos Ayres, under the auspices of Dr. PELLEGRINI, furnishes the following statement respecting the indebtedness of the Republic, both as regards the internal and foreign debts:

Various loans issued since 1824, up to and inclusive of the Santa Fé foreign debt, \$344,500,000; the other liabilities now contracted for other Provinces, \$33,500,000; internal debt in gold, \$32,000,000; internal debt in paper (gold valuation), \$43,000,000; floating debt, treasury bills, etc., \$16,700,000, or a grand total of \$469,700,000.

Against this total the writer in the "Pais" makes sundry deductions and reservations, with the result that the total net indebtedness is shown to be \$440,000,000 gold.

#### IMMIGRANTS IN DECEMBER.

During the month of December, 1899, 14,490 persons immigrated to the Argentine Republic. Of these 12,032 came direct to Argentine ports and 2,458 came by way of Montevideo, Uruguay. Besides these

there were 3,509 passengers; in all, 17,999 persons to arrive in Buenos Ayres during that month from abroad. Of the 12,032 immigrants 48 were German, 103 Austrian, 36 Swiss, 8 Danes, 4 Swedes, 2 Dutch, 52 English, 308 French, 7,691 Italians, 2,627 Spaniards, 16 Belgians, 7 North Americans, 541 Russians, 5 Portuguese, and 584 from various other countries.

#### **NEW GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH STATIONS.**

As a result of the recent trip of inspection of the Inspector-General of Telegraphs through the Province of Buenos Ayres for the purpose of ascertaining the cities and towns whose trade, population, etc., required the establishment of national telegraph offices, the Bureau of Posts and Telegraphs has determined to furnish the following localities with such offices: Mar del Plata, Balcarce, Ayacucho, Chivilcoy, Bragado, Nueve de Julio, Chascomús, Dolores, and Maipú. The work on these lines will be begun immediately.

#### **ITALIAN IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.**

The Marquis de MALASPINA, Diplomatic Representative of Italy accredited to the Government of the Argentine Republic, recently called upon the Minister of Public Instruction of the latter country for the purpose of furthering a request made by the Italian Government relative to the teaching of the Italian language in the national educational institutions. The Marquis was informed that President ROCA had already included in the budget for the present year estimates of salaries for such teachers, and that this language would be included in the curriculum of the national and commercial colleges on the same footing as other foreign languages, the students being permitted to select such as they desire to learn.

#### **RIO NEGRO STEAMERS.**

The Government has ordered from Europe three steamers for the navigation of the Rio Negro. Two of these vessels will measure 125 feet in length and 25 feet beam, with a capacity of 40 tons each. The third will be smaller, and measure about 110 feet, with 20-foot beam and a capacity of 125 tons. Each will be provided with two triple-expansion engines, Yarrow tubular boilers, and will have an average speed of nine knots, with a draft not to exceed 2 feet 9 inches. Two of the vessels will cost £8,115 each and the smaller £6,600, or a grand total of £22,830.

**LIVE STOCK IN ENTRE RIOS.**

The following statistics are given in regard to the number of animals in the Province of Entre Rios at the end of the year 1899:

	Cattle.	Horses.	Sheep.
Colón.....	130,482	18,050	286,320
Concordia.....	320,842	45,227	698,960
Dramante.....	27,633	16,308	55,380
Federación.....	150,878	18,835	376,740
Feliciano.....	111,846	27,746	261,645
Guauguay.....	160,763	25,262	593,516
Guauguaychú.....	248,352	46,130	750,361
La Paz.....	227,860	26,634	345,293
Nogozá.....	149,837	28,212	370,208
Paraná.....	110,995	29,581	256,830
Rosario del Tala.....	70,949	17,334	263,050
Uruguay.....	195,333	19,226	395,228
Victoria.....	96,724	16,375	319,416
Villaguay.....	220,419	87,090	444,137
Total.....	2,222,764	327,050	5,417,120

**FOREIGN CAPITAL IN THE REPUBLIC.**

According to a statement in the "Brazilian Review," the foreign capital in the Argentine Republic amounts to \$614,322,712, gold. This is divided as follows: Railways, \$475,122,085; banks, \$35,335,701; tramways, \$29,970,017; land companies, \$24,232,974; lighting companies, \$11,656,060; miscellaneous companies, etc., \$35,009,675.

**MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN BUENOS AYRES.**

The "Brazilian Review" says that there are 1,165 factories of various descriptions in the city of Buenos Ayres. Among them are to be found 184 establishments for making liquors, 122 furniture manufacturers, 69 carriage factories, 85 mechanical workshops, 25 tanneries, 11 distilleries, 19 boot factories, 47 hat factories, 23 tobacco factories, 21 weaving factories, 23 artificial-stone factories, 23 alpergata factories, 7 chocolate factories, 34 mills, 59 foundries, 8 surgical-instrument manufacturers, and 13 musical-instrument manufacturers. The number of work people employed in these factories is over 130,000, and the capital invested in them amounts, in paper currency value, to \$108,000,000. The same paper estimates that in the factories throughout the entire country there are 300,000 employees, and the capital invested is believed to amount to \$400,000,000, paper.

**NEW ENTERPRISES.**

The "Review of the River Plate" announces that the municipality of Buenos Ayres is inviting bids for the erection and equipment of electrical works for supplying the whole of that city with electric current for lighting and power for both public and private uses. One of the con-

ditions permits the contractors to tender bids for the erection of a municipal station equipped with a three-phase high-pressure plant. The mains will be laid throughout the entire city and suburbs. Preference will be given to those offers which agree to the transfer of the entire undertaking to the city at a fixed period. Already four supply companies are at work in a portion of the city, the district being a very extensive one. Owing to the capital required in the undertaking, it is doubtful if many bids will be sent. The latest date at which bids may be received is not mentioned by the "Review," nor is the date of awarding the contracts named.

The Buenos Ayres and Belgrano Electric Tramways Company has, according to advices from London, England, placed a large portion of its \$1,000,000 second debenture stock. The proceeds of this issue are required to complete the electric equipment of the company's system, to provide for expenditures on new lines, and increase its rolling stock. This, it is believed, will bring many new orders to the United States for the required material.

It is stated that a company is being formed in Paris with a capital of 25,000,000 *francs* for the purpose of utilizing the Iguazú waterfalls for several industrial purposes. The plans proposed are somewhat similar to those in use at Niagara Falls, New York.

A concession has been granted to Mr. CARLOS BRIGHT for underground electric railways, which will consist of two different lines running through a number of streets in the city of Buenos Ayres.

The Central-Chubut Railroad Company has been authorized by the Government to prolong its line from its present terminus at Trelew to a point 50 miles inland in the valley of the Chubut River.

A new hydraulic machine has been put into place in the harbor of Buenos Ayres. It is capable of working ten large cranes, and was purchased in Holland at a cost of \$54,000.

A telephone line between Buenos Ayres and Rosario is to be completed within the next eight months.

#### PRESIDENTIAL CONFERENCES.

It is stated in Buenos Ayres that there will be a meeting sometime during the month of March between President ROCA and President ERRÁZURIS, of Chile. This meeting will take place in the city of Mendoza.

"La Plata Post" states that President CAMPOS SALLES, of Brazil, will arrive in Buenos Ayres in May on the *Riachuelo*, which will be escorted by the cruiser *Almirante Barroso* and the torpedo boat *Tamoyo*.

Among the members of the commission appointed by the Argentine Government to receive the President of the Brazilian Republic is Dr.



E. ZEBALLOS, formerly Minister from the Argentine Republic to the United States and now honorary correspondent of the International Bureau of the American Republics.

### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Argentine Government is increasing its stock of war material. One of its naval transports, the *Pampa*, arrived at Buenos Ayres recently with a cargo of 60,000 projectiles for artillery and Maxim guns, together with 39,000 Mauser rifles. The total value of the war implements amounts to \$6,813,100.

Three German officers, Major VON KORNATZKI, Captain VON FELGENHAUER, and Captain SCHUNK, have been detailed as teachers to the military academy which is about to be organized.

The stamp tax for commercial books required by wholesale dealers has been fixed at 2 *centavos* per page; for retailers the tax is placed at 1 *centavo* per page from January 1, 1900.

Through a Presidential decree, the University of La Plata has been accorded the right to confer diplomas throughout the Republic.

The number of cattle in the Department of Villa Concepción is placed at 300,000, distributed among 58 different owners.

Colastine, the port of Santa Fé, during 1899 shipped 14,000 tons of wheat, 50,000 tons of linseed, 2,700 tons of maize, 56 tons of barley, 737 tons of peanuts, 752 tons of hay, 315 tons of birdseed, and 15,286 tons of flour, besides lumber and a number of miscellaneous items.

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## BOLIVIA.

### PRODUCTION OF QUININE.

The quinine plantations of Bolivia, according to a commercial exchange, were started by German immigrants having some knowledge of chemistry and chemical products. The groves known as "quinine quinales" are usually found on rough and broken mountain sides, at altitudes of from 3,000 to 6,000 feet above the sea. Most of the trees have been raised from the seed, which is gathered in the early summer months and sprouted in hothouses.

In five or six years the trees which have been transplanted will have reached a height of 12 or 14 feet and the trunks will be straight and slender and about 6 inches in diameter. In size and shape and the peculiar gloss of its leaves the tree resembles the orange. Two or

three times a year three or four strips of bark about 2 inches wide and from 2 to 8 feet long are cut from the trunk and thrown upon a paved yard to dry, where, as the moisture evaporates, they curl up like cinnamon bark. Within a year or two nature replaces the bark that has thus been stripped off, and the tree is stripped again in other places. As the tree grows older smaller strips are taken from the stronger branches, and the mature tree will produce an annual average of about 4 pounds of bark. For shipment, the bark, after it has dried for a few days, is packed in rawhide bales and exported from Arica and Mollendo.

#### EXPORTS OF RUBBER.

The Consul of the Argentine Republic at La Paz has sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Buenos Ayres a table giving the quantities of rubber exported from Bolivia during the year 1898, according to which the exports were as follows:

From Acre, 2,000,000 kilos, representing a value of \$8,695,600; from Villa Bella, 757,444 kilos, valued at \$3,293,000; from Puerto Perez, 256,542 kilos, valued at \$1,115,400; from Puerto Suarez, 27,556 kilos, valued at \$119,300; or a total amount exported of 3,041,542 kilos, valued at \$13,223,300 in the currency of the Republic.

#### COMPOSITION OF THE CABINET.

Since the publication in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for November last of the new Cabinet of Bolivia, by Supreme Decree of December 28, 1899, the different branches of the public administration were somewhat changed in title, as follows: Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship, Ministry of the Interior and Public Works, Ministry of the Treasury and Industry, Ministry of Justice and Public Instruction, Ministry of War and Colonization. The heads of these departments are named, respectively: FERNANDO E. GUACHALLA, CÁRLOS V. ROMERO, DEMETRIO CALBIMONTE, CÉSAR OROPEZA, and ISMAEL MONTES.

#### WATER SERVICE IN LA PAZ.

The National Convention has enacted a law appropriating 50,000 *bolivianos* per annum for the establishment of a water service for the city of La Paz.

## BRAZIL.

## CONSULAR INVOICES.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Senhor JOAQUIN MARTINHO, sent the following notice on January 27, 1900, to the Secretary of Foreign Relations:

“Act No. 651 of November 22, 1899, requiring foreign merchandise imported into the country after the 1st of January of the present year to be accompanied by a consular invoice, has come to furnish new elements for the Bureau of Statistics which the Government is authorized to establish by the provisions of act No. 560, of December 31, 1898.

“In order that this service, of the importance of which you are aware, may be fully carried out and constitute a basis of exact information for the study of our customs tariff, it becomes necessary to have the efficacious cooperation of our consular agents, who should for this purpose adopt a uniform system.

“This Department believes that there should be a book of registry in the consulates, after the annexed model, the leaves of which shall be numbered on one side only, and on these shall be transcribed the declarations of the invoices presented by the shipper or exporter, prepared in conformity with the Forms A and B.

“When one of these books has been completed, the first page of the book following should bear the number next higher than that of the last page of the preceding book.

“The invoices shall be numbered in the same way, thus avoiding the enumeration of the books of registry and the repetition of the numbers of the leaves of these and of the invoices.

“It is understood that the number of the leaves of the book of registry is independent of the number of those of the original invoice, since the latter, on account of its length and details, may occupy many pages of the book of registry.

“The book of registry thus prepared will constitute a faithful record from which may be taken certificates or duplicates of invoices in case of loss or destruction of the first invoices.

“The Forms A and B, of which there should be copies in the consulates at the service of interested parties, shall be filled out with the respective declarations. Both forms shall bear the same words, and the only difference between them shall be that the Form A shall have a perforated coupon attached to it.

“It is of vital importance that the Consuls observe the utmost accuracy in the words specified in the respective forms with reference to the origin, destination, value, etc., of merchandise.

"To the declared value, which shall be that which approximately corresponds to the current prices of merchandise in the country from which they are shipped, shall be added the freight and other expenses incident to placing the same in the port of destination, so that the sum resulting from these additions shall constitute the price of the merchandise placed in Brazil.

"As the value of the merchandise shall be expressed in the currency of the country from whence exported, and is subject to variations of exchange, in order to make the reduction to currency values of Brazil it will be necessary to know the exchange rate at the time of export.

"Document A, after all the legal formalities in the consulates have been complied with by the shipper or exporter, shall be annexed to the manifest and sent to the port of destination, pursuant to the act of November 22, already cited.

"The perforated coupon attached to this document, after it has been properly filled out by the custom-house officials in charge of this service in the ports of shipment, shall be detached and sent without delay to the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, accompanied by such remarks as may be necessary.

"Form B, after having been entered on the consular book, shall be sent as soon as possible to the said chief, accompanied by such remarks as the consular officers may deem useful for such an important branch of the public service. \* \* \*

"I beg you will recommend to the Consuls that they send at their convenience lists of the current prices in the respective markets of goods exported to Brazil and also official statistics of the countries where they exercise their consular functions."

The "London Times" says: The enactment of the new law prohibiting the importation of foreign goods bearing Portuguese labels, which was to go into effect the 1st of March, has been postponed until July 1, 1900, at which date it is hoped that the measure will be repealed by the Brazilian Congress.

According to the "Commercial Intelligence" of London, the Foreign Office has received a telegram from the British Legation at Rio de Janeiro announcing that a ministerial circular has suspended, until further order, the collection of fines incurred for the nonpresentation of consular invoices.

#### BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL STATISTICS.

The following decree was promulgated by the President of Brazil on January 8, 1900:

"The President of the Republic of the United States of Brazil, in the exercise of the authority granted him by Article 54, No. 4, of Act No. 560, of December 31, 1898, decrees:

"ARTICLE 1. There shall be established at the custom-house at Rio de Janeiro a special service of commercial statistics.

"ART. 2. This service shall be established in one of the buildings of the Federal Treasury, or in any other public or private building hired for this purpose.

"ART. 3. The Secretary of the Treasury may admit as many employees for this work as he deems necessary, and may increase or reduce the number, according to the exigencies of the service; it being understood, however, that these employees shall not have the character of public officials nor enjoy any other advantage except their monthly pecuniary compensation.

"ART. 4. The expenses of the service, including personnel and material, shall be defrayed from the product of the statistical tax, in conformity with Art. 54, above cited.

"ART. 5. In order to facilitate the service, its respective head shall correspond directly with the various consulates, custom-houses, and fiscal departments on statistical work.

"ART. 6. All dispositions to the contrary are hereby revoked."

The Minister of Finance has selected Mr. J. P. WILEMAN, editor of the Brazilian Review, to serve as the Director of the new Department of Commercial Statistics. Mr. WILEMAN will have a staff of eight persons, and is authorized to rent a building for the service at a cost of 300\$000 per month.

#### PROPOSED PURCHASE OF STEAMSHIP LINE.

In its issue of February 1, "O Pais" of Rio says that an American syndicate has offered to the Brazilian Minister at Washington to purchase the property and material of the Lloyd Brasileiro Steamship Company for the sum of \$4,500,000. An interview between the Minister of Finance of Brazil and the President of the Banco de Republica (the company's principal creditor) has been held, it is said, at which the price was fixed at \$6,000,000. "O Pais" says the negotiation has made good progress and will soon be realized.

#### RECENT GOVERNMENTAL DECREES.

Recent decrees promulgated by the Brazilian Government are in substance as follows:

Decree No. 3539, of December 29, 1899, regulates the introduction of immigrants into Brazil by the "Companhia Norte Mineira." For these immigrants the Government will pay £5 15s. each for those over 12 years of age, £3 8s. each for those from 7 to 12 years of age, and £1 4s. each for those from 2 to 7 years of age.

By Decree No. 3569, of January 23, the Government renews its contract with the "Companhia Internacional de Docas e Melhoramentos" for port improvements at Bahia. The work must commence within one year from the date of the decree.

Decree No. 3571, dated January 23, 1900, modifies certain provisions of the grant for cutting down the hill of Santo Antonio. The drawing must be presented within six months from the date of the decree, and work must commence within two years.

The Government having accepted the proposal of the State of Bahia for the lease of the Bahia and São Francisco Railway in that State, and the State of Bahia having transferred its rights to the engineer MIGUEL DE TEIVE E ARGOLLO, the President signed a decree on January 23, 1900, approving the contract of this gentleman on the following terms: Sixty years' lease, an initial payment of 150,000 *milreis*, the payment of 35,000 *milreis* per year in two half-yearly installments, and an annuity, payable half-yearly, of 5 per cent on the gross receipts for the first five years, of ten per cent for the second five years, of 15 per cent the second ten years, of 20 per cent the third ten years, 25 per cent the fourth, 30 per cent the fifth, and 40 per cent the sixth ten years, besides 20 per cent of the net revenue exceeding 12 per cent on the capital respectively employed.

#### TRADE AND TRADE POLICY.

As is the case in most of the South American Republics, so in Brazil the tariff on imports is subject to continuous changes. The customs receipts form, in a certain degree, the elastic factor in the estimates for the yearly budget. The policy of Brazil is a protective one. The most important element in the economic conditions of the country is the cultivation of tropical products, especially coffee, caoutchouc, cotton, and tobacco. The leading article of export is coffee, 60 per cent of the total world's product being raised in Brazil. The next article of consequence is rubber. On an average, fully 70 per cent of the total importations are paid by coffee exports. The "Brazilian Review" of Rio de Janeiro gives the following comparative table:

Year.	Coffee exports.	Importations.	Proportion of coffee exports to imports in general.
			<i>Per cent.</i>
1894.....	£24,000,000	£33,677,000	71.3
1895.....	23,000,000	33,325,000	69.0
1896.....	19,000,000	31,508,000	60.3
1897.....	19,000,000	25,775,000	73.7
1898.....	14,000,000	23,000,000	60.9

The interdependence of coffee exports and imports of foreign merchandise is therefore most marked. The falling off of the one causes a relative decrease in the other. In 1893, the year of greatest depression, England's exports to Brazil showed a loss of 18.5 per cent; those of France, 28.6 per cent; of Germany, 21.2 per cent, and of Belgium, 53 per cent. The United States alone had a slight increase to record, this being largely on account of the fact that the United States is the largest consumer of coffee and rubber.

**AMAZON TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the Amazon Telegraph Company, Limited, was held March 2, 1900, at the offices, Moorgate Station Chambers, London, Mr. D. H. GOODSALL presiding. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the company's report, stated that it showed the result of the year's working, and, owing to the difficulties which had been experienced in maintaining the cables, a debit balance of £29,000. The traffic existed, and if the cables could have been kept working the accounts would have presented a very different appearance. An excellent captain was now engaged in repairing the cables, and had met with considerable success. In three places the lines had been diverted, and it was hoped that this change would lead to the permanent maintenance of these parts of the system. Similar diversions would be made wherever it was seen that the cable would not last in its present position.

The directors had succeeded in obtaining from the Government of the State of Amazonas a concession for a land line, which they hoped shortly to be able to erect. The Government had nearly completed the road which they undertook to make for this line, and the directors had already dispatched more than one-third of the requisite material, while the remainder had been ordered. A further subsidy of £10,000 a year would be received by the company when the land line had been put up so long as it was kept in working order, and the line would also duplicate a part of the system. In answer to questions, Mr. GOODSALL stated that if the undertaking could be kept at work—and the directors felt that the only course for them was to do their utmost to insure this—the company would earn £27,000 a year in subsidies, in addition to which a good traffic existed. Part of the system, although, unfortunately, not a very profitable part, had remained in working order throughout nearly the whole period of four years during which the cable had been in operation, and on this portion an increase of about 85 per cent in the traffic had been shown.

**SÃO PAULO AND RIO GRANDE RAILWAY.**

The first section of the São Paulo and Rio Grande Railway, destined to connect the capitals of these two States, was formally inaugurated the 17th of last December. This line starts from Sorocobana, the last station of the Pauliste Company, situated on the Itararé River, which divides the States of São Paulo and Paraná. It will have its terminating point on the Uruguay River at the frontier of the States of Santa Catharina and Rio Grande, there connecting with the Uruguay-Passo-Fundo line now under construction by a Belgian Company.

The road passes through or near the cities of Castro and Ponta

Grassa, where it meets the line of the French Company of Brazilian Railways, passing through Curitiba to the port of Paranaguá. This section, constructed by Brazilian engineers, extends north of Ponta Grassa to Pirahy (96 kilometers) and south to Rebouças (133 kilometers). The principal station is established at Ponta Grassa. The gauge of the road is 1 meter.

#### LARGE CARGO OF COFFEE.

Advices from Rio Janeiro state that the British bark *Somali*, Captain RICHARDSON, which sailed from that port on February 2 for New York, carried a cargo of 82,169 bags of coffee, the largest cargo of coffee, with but one exception, that has ever left Rio. The cargo was entirely made up at Rio Janeiro, and was shipped by one firm—probably the largest single shipment on record from that port.

#### EXPORTATION OF MATÉ.

The quantity of maté exported last year from Parana was 21,912,899 kilos, which is nearly equal to the average for the three previous years. The export tax on that article in Parana was farmed last year for 556,000 *milreis* by the State Government to contractors, whose profit is estimated at 100,000 *milreis*, from which must be deducted the cost of collection.

#### FIBER FROM BANANA PLANTS.

A recent issue of "Minas Geraes" publishes a letter written by Mr. ERNESTO AUGUSTO LAGES, in which he claims to have discovered delicate fibers in the trunks of the banana plant. These fibers are claimed to be superior to those of the henequén, which is so much prized in the United States. These fibers are called *fibras lagesinas*, and are well adapted to the manufacture of ropes, cloths, laces, etc., their extraction being very simple.

#### NEW RUBBER TREE.

According to the "Diário de Notícias," of Bahia, a new rubber tree has been discovered, which appears to be superior to all other trees of this class. It is known by the name of *Pecambira*, and is remarkable for the abundance and superior quality of its sap.

#### NEW COFFEE ASSOCIATION.

"Associação Central Paulista" is the name of a new company organized in São Paulo for the purpose of developing a new national industry and at the same time spreading abroad a knowledge of the coffee of this State, which is not fully appreciated in foreign markets.



The company proposes to erect in the city of São Paulo a large establishment with numerous divisions where the coffee will undergo the various processes of preparation, such as separating of the grains, roasting, grinding, etc., and finally will be packed ready for shipment. The tin boxes, paper sacks, and large wooden cases used in the packing of the coffee will be manufactured within the establishment.

Ground coffee of the best quality will be shipped in tin boxes containing either one-half or 1 kilo each. Coffee in grain will be put in paper sacks, and these in turn will be placed in cases, each one containing 48 sacks. The tin boxes will also be inclosed in cases. These cases will be manufactured exclusively of the wood of Brazil.

Dr. HENRIQUE BOCCOLINI, the manager of the company, at a recent meeting of the "Centro da Lavoura do Café do Brazil," held at Rio de Janeiro, stated that the roasting and separating machines were ready and that the company was only awaiting the arrival of the special machinery from Germany for the manufacture of the tin boxes.

The company will have representatives in various parts of the world through whom the coffee will be offered for sale.

#### CULTIVATION OF MANIÇOBA RUBBER.

Mr. C. E. AMOROSO LIMA, in a communication to the "Jornal do Commercio," gives the results of an experiment made in the cultivation of the maniçoba plant. There has been a great deal written in Brazil, as well as in other tropical countries, recently, in regard to the importance of cultivating this plant, owing to the increasing demand for rubber, and these suggestions may be useful to others undertaking its cultivation.

The planting of the maniçoba seeds was begun on the 20th of November, 1898, on a plantation situated on the slope of the Orgãos Mountains, Rio de Janeiro. The land was of excellent quality and the region mountainous. The planting was effected during the rainy season. Shallow holes, 10 centimeters apart, were made, in which was placed one seed. The result was most satisfactory. Eight months after the planting the plants had attained a height of 1 meter. On the 8th of January, 1900, they had attained a height of 2 meters and 20 centimeters, and a diameter of 3 centimeters at a height of 1 meter from the ground, showing all the vigor and luxuriance of plants growing wild. Seven of these plants, when they had reached a height of 1 meter, were transplanted, and while they suffered a little from the change, they all took root in the new soil. On the 4th of October, 1899, another planting was made on cleared ground. From this planting have sprung up 240 young plants, all of which seem vigorous. This last planting was made just before the rainy season.

## BAHIA CENTRAL SUGAR FACTORIES.

The report of the Bahia Central Sugar Factories Company for the year ending June 30, 1899, was read and approved at the regular annual meeting of the company held in London on the 7th of December, 1899. According to the report there has been considerable reduction in the amount of sugar produced by the two mills of the company. The mill at Rio Fundo crushed 17,262 tons of sugar cane in 1898, compared with 43,908 tons in 1897, and the mill at Iguape 6,563 tons, against 17,000 tons in 1897. The reason given for this small crop was the wretched weather conditions that prevailed in 1898. This loss, however, is partly compensated by the increase in the price of sugar. In 1897-98 the company received only £19 16s. 3d. per ton for sugar, while in 1898-99 the price per ton rose to £30 8s. 7d.

In regard to the machinery, railways, rolling stock, etc., of the company, the report states that they are in much better condition this year than they were last. Reports from Bahia on the present crop indicate that at least 35,000 tons of sugar cane will be ground at Rio Fundo and 15,000 tons at Iguape. The price of sugar is high, and there is every reason to hope that affairs will improve at both places.

As regards the future crop, the prospects are excellent, as the plantations of sugar cane in the districts of the mills are larger this year than they have been for many years.

## EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF PARÁ.

The following is a summary of the export trade of Belem, State of Pará, during the year 1898, taken from official reports:

*Rubber.*—To New York, 7,474,324 kilos; to Liverpool, 6,430,882 kilos; to Havre, 527,123 kilos; to other ports, 59,895 kilos; total, 14,492,224 kilos.

*Cacao.*—To Havre, 853,688 kilos; to New York, 63,233 kilos; to Liverpool, 42,830 kilos; to other ports, 114,832 kilos; total, 1,074,583 kilos.

*Chestnuts.*—To New York, 52,401 kilos; to Liverpool, 41,144 kilos; total, 93,545 kilos.

The official value of these products was as follows: Rubber, 126,103,397 *milreis*; cacáo, 2,383,913 *milreis*; chestnuts, 2,032,686 *milreis*; total, 130,519,998 *milreis*.

The official value of other products exported from Pará, such as cumarú, guarana, ox and deer hides, glue, copaiba oil, piassava, and cinchona, was as follows:

To New York, 336,729 *milreis*; to Liverpool, 484,568 *milreis*; to Havre, 506,356 *milreis*; total, 1,327,655 *milreis*.

Thus it will be seen that the total value of the exports from Pará during 1898 amounted to 131,847,653 *milreis*. Comparing this sum

with the value of the exports during the last five years, it will be discovered that there has been a constant increase, and that the valuation has almost doubled in that time.

While the export trade of Pará is extraordinarily large, the importation of alimentary products of prime necessity is no less remarkable. In 1898 Pará imported 26,961,473 kilos of mandioca flour and 3,337,265 kilos of maize, both of which products grow to perfection in this State.

The Governor of the State is making every effort to increase the production, establishing agricultural centers throughout the commonwealth. The small farmers are engaged in the cultivation of mandioca, corn, and tobacco, a very high price being paid in the State for the latter. Rice is also cultivated extensively, there having been a decrease in the imports of this product in 1898 amounting to 157,071 kilos.

#### THE STANDING ARMY.

According to the "Rio News," there are now 14,658 noncommissioned officers and privates in the Brazilian army, forming 40 battalions of infantry, 6 battalions of siege artillery, 6 regiments of field artillery, and 14 regiments of cavalry. If the views of the Minister of War are adopted, the infantry will be reorganized into 20 regiments of 2 battalions each with 3 companies to each battalion. The regimental officers will be 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 2 majors, and a quartermaster with the rank of captain. The company commissioned officers will be 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, and 1 ensign. This will give 23 commissioned officers to each regiment. Unemployed officers will be attached to the general staff.

#### NOTES ON INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

The São Paulo Light and Power Company has recently contracted for the following material in the United States: 50,000 feet of weather-proof cable, 6,000 Brookfield insulators, and 7,000 other insulators. Contracts for these goods, together with others which have been awarded to United States firms, show an aggregate value of over \$100,000.

The receipts of the Central Railway of Brazil amounted in 1899 to 32,800 *contos*, and the expenditures to 27,800 *contos*, leaving a surplus of 5,000 *contos*. The substitution of electricity for steam is contemplated, if not throughout the entire line, at least in that part which extends through the suburbs of Rio.

The population of the City of Pará is reported by the United States Consul to have doubled within the last five years. The trade of this port with Iquitos, Peru, has so increased that steamers engaged in the traffic have taken steps to double their service.

The construction of water and drainage works for the town of São

Simão, in the State of São Paulo, was begun on the 1st of March, 1900. The dam in Jahu River, designed to furnish power for the waterworks, was recently swept away by a flood.

Mr. RHEINGANTZ, a well-known resident of Rio Grande do Sul, has just organized in Germany a syndicate for the purpose of cultivating wheat on a large scale in that State.

A German bank has been established in Manãos, capital of the State of Amazonas, with a capital of 20,000,000 *milreis*.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A dispatch, dated February 17, 1900, from Rio de Janeiro says that, in an effort to gain a greater foothold for German manufactures, Consuls for that country have been named for every city and large town in Bolivia, Brazil, Argentine Republic, Uruguay, and Paraguay. The same dispatch says that Germany, Italy, and Spain have accepted the minimum tariffs, reducing the duty on coffees, and that France refuses to continue the negotiations; also that the other commercial treaties are progressing favorably.

The issue of new postage stamps of denominations of 200, 100, and 50 *reis*, on February 1, 1900, was in accord with the decision of the Postal Union to adopt uniform colors for stamps, corresponding to 25, 10, and 5 *centimes*, used for international letter, postal card, newspaper and parcel postage.

On December 31, 1899, the cash balances of the five foreign banks in the City of Rio de Janeiro amounted to 42,631,000\$000, as compared with 69,802,000\$000 on December 31, 1898. The deposits were 87,934,523\$459, against 92,704,098\$082 on December 31, 1898.

On January 31, official advice was sent to the foreign representatives in Rio de Janeiro, declaring that the ports of Rio and Santos were free from the bubonic plague.

There entered at the port of Rio de Janeiro in 1898, 27,650 immigrants, of whom 27,531 came from Europe, 43 from the River Plate country, and 76 from the United States.

The law reducing the export duty on coffee from the State of Minas Geraes from 11 to 9 per cent became effective on February 1, 1900.

Senhor RODRIGUEZ ALVEZ has been elected Governor of the State of São Paulo without opposition.

The Brazilian Consulate at Naples, Italy has been abolished by Presidential decree.

Receipts of Brazilian salt in the Rio market in 1899 amounted to 23,788 tons.

## CHILE.

## SUGAR BOUNTY LAW.

The sugar bounty law of Chile authorizes the President of the Republic to pay 2 *centavos* per kilogram on all raw beet sugar produced in the country for six years dating from January 1, 1899.

The annual grant for the first year is not to exceed \$25,000, currency, and increases at the rate of \$25,000 yearly until 1902, for which year, and for 1903 and 1904, it is fixed at a maximum of \$100,000. Should the amount not be sufficient to pay the bounty of 2 *centavos* per kilogram, it is to be divided proportionately between the producers of the sugar.

For a term of ten years the tariff for the transport of beets on the State railways is not to be raised to a rate higher than that obtaining on December 31, 1898.

During the same period the tariff on molasses and raw sugar, on first leaving the agricultural establishments and manufactories in full trucks, is not to exceed that now charged on articles of the fifth class of the tariff schedule.

To obtain the bounties the producers must furnish proof of the quantity of sugar produced; they must establish that they are legal residents of Chile, and furnish any information which the President of the Republic may desire respecting the industry, as well as other data which may be conducive to the object aimed at by the law.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE NITRATE TRADE.

The development of the trade in nitrate of soda continued steadily throughout the year 1899, but in the spring months, owing to the absence of sufficient supplies, a temporary check was experienced, and, as a consequence, wide fluctuations in prices resulted. The visible supply at the first of the year 1900 amounted to 730,000 tons, against 703,000 tons at the beginning of the year 1899.

The world's consumption of nitrate of soda for the past three years was as follows, in tons: 1897, 1,100,000; 1898, 1,186,000; 1899, 1,330,000; while the shipments for the same periods have been, respectively, 1,000,000, 1,265,000, and 1,360,000 tons.

The annual circular issued by Mr. THOMSON AIKMAN puts the shipments of nitrate of soda in the past year as is given above, or at 95,000 tons more than in 1898, while the world's consumption increased 144,000 tons.

The official statistics of the exportation of nitrate of soda and iodine from all the nitrate ports in Chile have just been published. According to these, the number of metric quintals of nitrate exported was 11,061,895, or, reduced to tons, 1,106,190 tons; the number of kilo-

grams of iodine exported between the 1st of January and the 1st of November, 1899, was 249,718, or 249.781 tons.

A dispatch from San Francisco, under date of February 24, 1900, says that the demand for tonnage at the nitrate ports of South America is so great as to seriously embarrass shippers of wheat in that part of the United States. It is also reported that a British ship has been chartered to proceed in ballast from Shanghai, China, to Iquique, to load nitrate for Europe at 30s.

#### CHILEAN CLAIMS COMMISSION.

The ratifications of the treaty providing for a revival of the United States and Chilean Claims Commission of 1893 were exchanged at the Department of State of the United States on March 12, 1900. The Chilean Minister, Señor C. MORLA VICUÑA, will be the Chilean member of the Commission and Señor DON ANIBAL CRUZ will be the Counsel for Chile. Señor CRUZ was formerly Secretary of the Chilean Legation at Washington. The officers to represent the United States Government on the Commission have not yet been designated. It is stated that the two Governments interested will unite in a note to the Government of Switzerland requesting that it authorize Mr. J. A. PRODA, its Minister here, to act as President of the Commission.

#### TREATY WITH JAPAN.

"El Comercio Ilustrado," of San Francisco, Cal., referring to the recent return from Japan of Señor C. MORLA VICUÑA, Chilean Minister to the United States, avers that this gentleman, during his recent visit to the Japanese Empire, concluded a treaty of amity, navigation, and commerce between it and Chile, and that he is preparing an exhaustive and voluminous report upon the terms of the treaty and the great influence for good it will have between the two countries.

#### EXPENDITURES FOR TELEGRAPH AND RAILWAY SERVICE.

An act of Congress has been promulgated empowering the Executive to expend \$97,834.15 in the reconstruction of telegraph lines from Taltal to Tocopilla and a further sum of \$17,000 in special lines across rivers.

An act of Congress has been promulgated empowering the Executive to expend \$190,000 in surveys of the following railway lines:

From Inca (Chañaral), to a point on the Copiapó line to Puquios or to Caldera; from Pueblo Hundido northward passing along the eastern side of the coast range; from Serena to Ballenar with a branch to Sarco Bay; from Ovalle to Trapiche (Tongoi line); from Combarbalá to Puerto Oscuro, or to an adjacent bay; from Ligua to Papudo; from

Melipilla to San Antonio; from Rancagua to Doñihue; from San Clemente to Panimávida; from Panimávida to a point on the Southern Railway; from Cauquenes to Coelemu; from Angeles to Antuco; from Traiguen to Galvarino, and from Puerto Montt to Maullin, with prolongation to Calbuco y Carelmapu.

#### DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CHANGES.

Señor Don DOMINGO A. RIVERA has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Uruguay and Paraguay.

Señor Don ANJEL CUSTODIO VICUÑA has been named as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Peru, and Don JOAQUIN GODOY Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Bolivia.

Señor LUIS ENRIQUE IZQUIERDO has been appointed attaché of the Chilian Legation to the Holy See, and Lieut. Col. JOAQUIN LARRAIN ALCALDE has been appointed Military Attaché to the Chilian Legations at Rome and Berlin.

The following new consular changes are also announced: Señor PRO PUELMA BESA goes as Consul-General to Vienna, Austria; Señor ENRIQUE ROECKLE goes to Munich, Germany, as Consul; Señor MATÍAS RIAS GONZALES goes as clerk to the Chilian Legations in Germany and Italy.

The Chilian Consulates, in Birmingham and Manchester, England, have been abolished by a Presidential decree.

Señor ALFREDO VERA has been recognized as Nicaraguan Consul, Señor GERMAN A. LARREA as Bolivian Consul, and Señor ALFRED WAUGH ALDUNATE as Paraguayan Consul in Santiago.

The German Consulate in Valparaiso is to be raised to a Consulate-General.

#### PATENT FOR A COPYING PRESS.

Mr. ALBERTO POBLETE Y GARIN, of Salamanca, Chile, has been awarded a patent in the United States for a copying press. According to the "Scientific American," this invention provides a contrivance which will enable the operator to exert a uniform pressure so as to procure a perfect copy. The inventor inserts a wedge-shaped pneumatic cushion between the leaves of a book, which cushion receives and transmits the applied pressure. An increase in the size of the surface to which the pressure is to be applied will necessitate an increase in the dimensions of the cushion, but will not necessitate an increase in the pressure to be applied, since the pressure is transmitted undiminished to all parts of the cushion, whatever its size.

#### THE CUSTOMS TARIFF.

Messrs. LUIS DE FERRARI and RAFAEL MOLINARE have been commissioned by the Government to revise the customs tariff, so as to bring

the values assigned to the different kinds of merchandise into relation with their true value. The labors of the appointees are to be completed by July 1, 1900, and they are to receive as remuneration \$5,000 each. The labors of this commission will be considered by the next Congress.

The customs tariff in force during 1899 will, by decree of the Government, remain in force during the whole of 1900.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Vice-Admiral MANUEL CENORET, who commanded the maneuvers of the Chilean navy, died recently. This officer was one of those who in 1878 captured the Peruvian gunboat *Huascar*. He had seen much other service, and, besides several medals, had received decorations from the French Government and the King of Sweden.

The Council of State has approved the estimates for the current year, amounting to \$76,500,000 currency.

During the year 1899 the value of horses exported from Chile was estimated at \$300,000.

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### COSTA RICA.

#### DEMAND FOR COFFEE IN CALIFORNIA.

In 1898 the exports of coffee from Central America to California amounted to 15,425,526 pounds, and in 1897 to 16,576,567 pounds. In San Francisco there is a great demand for Costa Rican coffee; in 1898 2,261,645 pounds being exported, worth \$271,441. Coffee, with cattle skins, are, generally speaking, the only imports from Central America, which occupies fourth place in the trade with California.

#### ADDITION TO THE COSTA RICA RAILWAY.

The Costa Rica Railroad, with principal offices at San José, and controlled by British capital, is to add 28 miles of road to its system and, according to information received, the purchases for the extension will be made in the United States. The Railway Track Supply and Equipment Company of New York has secured the order for 25,000 steel ties from this company. Other orders are to follow.

#### EQUIPMENT FOR GOLD STANDARD.

Messrs. H. B. HOLLINS & Co., the New York bankers, recently shipped to the Government of Costa Rica 500,000 gold *colones*, in 5, 10, and 20 denominations. The gold was coined at the United States mint at Philadelphia, and is a part of the new coins ordered when



Costa Rica determined to go upon a gold basis. The equivalent of the *colones* in American gold is about \$250,000.

The "Prensa Libre" is authority for the statement that the Government has deposited in the Banco de Costa Rica 1,500,000 *colones*, and will shortly issue 121,500 gold certificates in representation of the said deposit.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

According to the report of the Bureau of Statistics the consumption of beef cattle in the Republic for the year 1899 in the seven largest centers of population was 39,194 head. The imports of cattle numbered 15,918.

There were recently shipped from Puerto Limón in one cargo 40,000 bunches of bananas. The banana crop on the Atlantic Coast is said to be abnormally large this season.

There was recently formed in San José an "Asociación Obrera" (Labor Union) for the purpose of bettering the conditions of the laboring classes.

Within six months the city of Santo Domingo will be added to the list of Costa Rican municipalities with electric lighting.

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### COLOMBIA.

#### UNFOUNDED RUMOR.

"La Nación," of Montevideo, Uruguay, in a recent number stated that the President of Colombia, Señor Dr. Don MANUEL A. SANCLEMENTE had died at Bogotá at the advanced age of 86 years. Señor Don Clímaco Calderón, diplomatic representative of Colombia in Washington, informs the MONTHLY BULLETIN of the falsity of this statement. The aged President is still occupying the Chief Executive's chair and enjoying fairly good health.

#### ABOLITION OF THE CIGARETTE MONOPOLY.

The cigarette monopoly, which was established in Colombia in 1897, has, through the decree of November 20, 1899, been abolished. This decree becomes effective on May 13, 1900, or earlier if the supply of cigarettes becomes exhausted before that time. After that date the importation and manufacture of these articles will be permitted, the tariff governing the trade being as prescribed in the customs tariff law of November 22, 1894, by which cigars are taxed at 4 *pesos* per kilogram, cigarettes 3 *pesos* per kilogram, and other cut tobacco in any form whatever 2 *pesos* with the customary additions.

## ECUADOR.

**SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM THE UNITED STATES.**

Mr. THOMAS B. WOOD, a citizen of the United States, late in December, 1899, entered into a contract with the Government of Ecuador, binding himself to secure in Chile or in the United States teachers for the national normal schools. These teachers must be familiar with the Castillian tongue and have the necessary acquirements to instruct the students in the institutions where they are to act, and must be in Ecuador before September 1, 1900. Mr. Wood must secure the services of at least six teachers, and at the most twelve. The teachers are to receive \$150, \$125, \$100, \$85, and \$80 United States money, or its equivalent in Ecuadorian currency, payable in advance on the 1st of each month, beginning with September, 1900, and continuing uninterruptedly for sixty months, when the contract shall terminate. The Government also undertakes to transport the teachers and their families to Quito, Cuenca, or Guayaquil, as the case may be, and upon the conclusion of the contract they will be sent back to their own countries. Mr. Wood has also been appointed a special commissioner to contract in the United States or in Chile for the services of the teachers needed.

The number of students registered in the advanced schools of Ecuador indicates progress in educational matters since the advent of the liberal Government of President ALFARO. Under the clerical party the number of such students was given as only 600, but upon the present list of scholars are 6,478 names, divided as follows: Theology, 379; medicine, 1,346; law, 2,334; philosophy, 2,419. This does not include the number of scholars in the primary schools, regarding which reliable statistics are not available.

**ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE YEAR 1899.**

Mr. FRANDIN, French Consul-General and Chargé d'Affaires at Quito, writes that from the commercial point of view the year which has just passed has been most satisfactory for the Republic of Ecuador. The exports have considerably increased, owing to the fact that the agricultural products, cacao especially, have yielded better crops.

President ALFARO's Government has given special attention to the development of the ways of communication. Work is being actively pursued on the Pailón and Manabí roadways, which are to connect the capital with the coast, and the Chimbo railway employs 1,000 workmen. It will, however, be several years before this latter road is in condition to be of practical use.

### THE CITY OF GUAYAQUIL.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to the courtesy of Consul-General DE LEON, at Guayaquil, for several items of interest regarding that progressive city. The city tramway company during the last year earned 24 per cent upon its stock. This splendid showing prevents the stockholders from changing the present motive power into electric traction, which is much to be desired. A contract was recently let to Señores ALVARADO and BEJARANO for the installation of an electric plant for lighting, which could easily be extended to embrace motive power. It has been suggested that when this has been once introduced the "Peñas Heights," which encircle the city, could be graded and adorned with comfortable homes above the malarial zone. Street paving in the city is progressing slowly, but active steps are being taken to furnish a sewage system. If this work were to be followed by filling up the mud flats and devoting them to parks and courts for drying cacao, Guayaquil would become as healthy a city as one would care to live in, immigration from Europe and America would begin to flow in, and a valuable commercial as well as socially attractive element would be added to the population. Guayaquil is now a most important business emporium, and does more business with the United States than any city in the western part of South America. The population, which was 50,000 in 1895, is now estimated to be nearly 60,000. This city is situated on the Guayas River, about 60 miles from the sea, and its harbor is deep enough for good-sized vessels.

### NEW COPPER AND SILVER DEPOSITS.

It is reported that some large deposits of copper and silver have recently been discovered in Ecuador by European metallurgists of experience and ability. Consul-General DE LEON, writing from Guayaquil, says that he has examined some specimens of the ore taken from the newly-discovered mine, and that they appear to be very rich. The specimens were found in the Province of Ahuay at an altitude of about 5,000 feet and at a distance of about 35 miles from the coast.

### DEMAND FOR COAL.

The press at Guayaquil reports that in 1898 the Republic of Ecuador did not import any Australian coal, while in 1899 the receipts were 1,844 tons, with a prospect of a much larger importation in 1900. In his report to the Minister of Foreign Relations at Quito, Mr. JORGE F. WILLIAMSON, Consul-General of Ecuador, at Sydney, Australia, requests the appointment of an assistant to aid him in procuring coal for the Ecuadorian market. He says that he had once before made

such a request of his Government and that the necessity for such an officer is greater now than ever. Previous to 1898 Ecuador's coal supply was received direct from the United Kingdom. Possibly coal from the United States could find a market in this country.

#### **LOAN TO THE GOVERNMENT.**

The "Sociedad de Crédito Público," a strong banking institution, during 1899 made a loan to the Government of 2,000,000 *sucres*. It enjoys the great salt monopoly.

#### **PROPOSED SERIES OF PUBLICATIONS.**

"La Estrella de Panamá," is authority for the statement that a French citizen, M. GASTON DONNET, recently wrote the Minister of Foreign Relation to the effect that early in the present year several of his countrymen would go to Ecuador to make investigations in its libraries and archives, and to consult freely with its public men, savants, artists, and business men for the purpose of publishing a series of volumes on a great scale relating to the South American Republics, and especially Ecuador, of which but little is known in France. The said volumes will contain picturesque descriptions, archæological, ethnographic, historical, political, commercial, industrial, and agricultural studies regarding the several countries.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.**

On March 10, 1900, there was opened at Quito, under the name of the "Academy of War," the first military institution ever founded in the Republic. The President has issued a decree prescribing the general rules for the conduct of the establishment, which is under the immediate supervision of the Minister of War. The pupils will receive a regular pay of 50 *sucres* monthly.

The History of Ecuador and the Geography of Ecuador, recent works of Don ROBERTO ANDRADE, have been declared official text-books by the Government.

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### **GUATEMALA.**

#### **PATENT COFFEE OR MALT DRYER.**

As has been noted in the MONTHLY BULLETIN, Mr. FRITZ E. R. OKRASSA, of Antigua, Guatemala, has been granted a patent in the United States for a coffee or malt dryer. The "Scientific American" describes this invention as a drying machine consisting of a rotary drum provided with means for the admission and escape of the drying

agent. Stirrers are held to rotate with the drum, and are provided with apertures for the introduction of the material, these apertures being closed by slides or doors. By the improved construction of drying compartments, and particularly by the specific arrangement of the stirrers, these compartments can be filled about four-fifths, thus securing an exceedingly thorough utilization of the available space.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Work will very shortly be commenced on the construction of the tramway line to run from the Jocotenango Plazuela to the Hipódromo, and it is stated that the line will be in operation by the end of the month of May. The residents of Guatemala City are looking forward to this improvement with marked interest.

FRANCISCO L. DE VILLA, of Guatemala City, on February 27 last, was granted a patent by the United States Patent Office on a device for preventing ships from sinking.

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### HAITI.

#### GOLD BONDS FOR CREDITORS.

The Government of Haiti, according to Minister POWELL's report, has consolidated the debt of the Republic, giving the creditors in return for obligations a gold bond, augmented 10 per cent in value, and bearing interest at the rate of 1 per cent gold per month, payable in fourteen years. This has released to the Government certain duties on coffee, logwood, and cocoa which were formally mortgaged, and provides for the expense of the budget.

#### THE TRADE IN DRUGS.

In the Republic of Haiti the practice of medicine and surgery follows the French system. Most of the physicians of reputation and lucrative practice have been to school in Paris, and have brought back with them the French methods and a decided preference for French products. Hence they are grounded in the belief that there are no pharmaceutical preparations of merit made elsewhere. The surgical supplies are the same as are used in Paris. The goods are packed in rolls of parchment paper or in carton boxes, and are put up very elegantly, with handsome labels in French text. Beyond question the quality is superior throughout.

In medicinal soaps the German manufactures compete strongly with the French. Hardly any of the soaps made in the United States are

disposed of, though they may be as good, because they have not the label in the French language. Except in the case of large orders, the manufacturers in the United States will not put on French labels nor issue French catalogues and prospectuses. The Germans are good imitators of the French in packing and in the manner of doing business. Without the adoption of French usage in Haiti, it is exceedingly hard to do business in that country. American patent medicines of a number of firms in Philadelphia and elsewhere have gained a sale in the country because they were put up according to the manner in which the French medicines are offered for sale. The people are very susceptible to advertisements of all kinds, an effective introductory necessity for any remedy or preparation. They never refuse an article put up artistically with the directions and descriptions printed in the French language.

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## HONDURAS.

### EXTRACTS FROM PRESIDENT SIERRA'S MESSAGE.

At the opening of Congress on the 1st of January, the President of Honduras, General SIERRA, delivered his customary address, from which the following extracts relating to the economical development of this Republic are taken:

“Agriculture and trade have greatly developed in Honduras, and comfort has extended to all classes of society. The activity which is manifested in all branches of national industry and the very low rate of exchange abroad give ample proof of the favorable situation of the country.

“The imports for the year 1899 amounted to about \$2,000,000 while the exports exceeded \$5,000,000. These figures, unimportant in themselves, when the great natural wealth and the limited population are taken into account, are flattering from an economical point of view and explain why the monetary crisis and the fall in the price of coffee have not sensibly affected Honduras.

“Agriculture is constantly developing; the cultivation of bananas, the most productive of the agricultural products, comes first in importance in consequence of the increasing exportation of this fruit to the United States. Tobacco comes next; its cultivation which was formerly limited to the Department of Copán has extended to all the rest of the Republic. The quality of the product is excellent and brings remunerative prices in the foreign markets. Cattle raising is also increasing and finds an assured market in the Antilles.

“The products of the mining industry occupy the first place among the exports. New mining enterprises have recently been undertaken and others are being organized.

"The financial situation is excellent, the internal debt on the 31st of July, 1899, amounted to only \$309,000, and the surplus of the fiscal year at this same date amounted to \$827,000.

"The relations between Honduras and the neighboring States of Central America are most friendly, and its internal policy, which is one of peace, conciliation, and liberty, is a pledge of progress and prosperity."

#### MERCANTILE COMMISSION FIRM.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN is informed, under date of February 4, 1900, that MESSRS. LÓPEZ and ZAMBRANO, of Tegucigalpa, on the date mentioned, formed a copartnership for the period of six years to carry on the business of buying and selling foreign and domestic articles. The firm will execute any mercantile commission that may be confided to them.

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### MEXICO.

#### BANKING LAW OF THE REPUBLIC.

An interesting report on banking in Mexico has recently come from the pen of the acting British acting Consul there, Mr. BIORKLAND. The following condensed notes are taken from the report:

The banking law of Mexico now in force was promulgated by the Federal Government in 1897, pursuant to which all new institutions must be classified under three distinct heads: (1) Banks of issue; (2) mortgage banks; (3) *bancos refaccionarios*, including mining, agricultural, and industrial banks. Of the 16 banks established in the Republic since 1888 (two of which have been amalgamated with others), 7 have been started within the last two years, showing that business operations are now much more extended than formerly and that commerce in general has a circulating medium far safer and quicker than the old-fashioned wagon train formerly used to convey specie and merchandise from one large center to another, and always liable to be held up on the road, either by the bad condition of the same during the rainy season or by the bands of robbers which infested the country.

Mexico is the largest commercial city of the Republic, as well as the greatest distributing center. The merchants from several of the more important towns in the interior, though importing some of their merchandise direct from abroad, still make periodical visits to the capital to examine the stocks held in the city. Many of these country merchants are wealthy and of good standing, and can easily obtain credit for the purchase of the merchandise they secure at periods ranging from three to nine months. Failures are almost unknown, and the few that there have been recently were of foreign houses.

Mexicans as a rule are careful and prudent in their commercial

undertakings, and when failures do occur among them they are generally attributable to a sudden and unforeseen depreciation of assets. Most of the banking operations at the beginning of the century were transacted by British houses then established in the capital. These gradually withdrew, and were succeeded by the Bank of London, Mexico and South America, which was started in Mexico about the year 1864, in compliance with a charter granted by the Mexican Government. The principal shareholders were British, but it was considered in the light of a private banking house with the right to issue bank notes, and it was not until the year 1884 that it began to acquire an official status. Then it received a new charter, putting it on the same basis as the Mexican National Bank, which has always been recognized as an official institution. Under this charter it changed its name to the "Bank of London and Mexico," incorporated with a capital of \$1,500,000, which has been successively increased to \$10,000,000. On January 1, 1900, the capital was further increased to \$15,000,000. The shareholders of this institution represent three-quarters Mexican and one-quarter British capital.

The National Bank of Mexico is the result of the fusion of two establishments that were known as the "Mexican National" and "Mexican Mercantile" banks in the year 1884, and also holds a charter from the Government dated 1897. The capital of this bank is \$20,000,000, subscribed three-fifths by Mexican and two-fifths by foreign capitalists, and is exempt from the Federal tax. These two banks are allowed to establish branch houses throughout the Republic, and to issue bank notes—in the case of the London Bank twice, and the National Bank three times, the amount of coin they may have in their vaults. The amount of notes each had in circulation on March 31, 1899, was: Bank of London and Mexico, \$19,310,704; National Bank of Mexico, \$23,689,413.

By a franchise granted to the foregoing establishments no other bank having the note-issuing right can be organized in the Federal District until the lapse in 1927 of the present law, but deposit banks or any banks of a similar nature may be formed. The present rate of interest charged by the bank is from 8 to 9 per cent per annum.

There is but one mortgage bank in the Republic, and that is in the City of Mexico, being known as the "International and Mortgage Bank of Mexico." Under the name of the "Banco Hipotecario Mexicano" this bank originally started in 1883, but did not receive its present charter until 1891. Its capital, \$5,000,000, is subscribed principally by Mexican capitalists. Although it is not authorized to circulate bank notes, it has the privilege of issuing two kinds of paper credit, namely, mortgage bonds amortizable in half-yearly drawings and bearing interest not exceeding 7 per cent per annum, and interest-bearing certificates repayable at dates varying from three months to five years.



By the regulations established by the banking law referred to the mortgage bank is only allowed to loan money on mortgages, but the Bank of London and Mexico and the National Bank can loan out at interest with the following restrictions: The document must be indorsed by two signatures at least or by a collateral security, and the loan must not be for a term exceeding six months.

Many of the larger business firms are now constituted as limited companies, in whose articles of copartnership a clause is inserted by which none of the partners is allowed to give either his own name individually or that of the firm as a guaranty. These conditions preclude the smaller houses from applying to them. If, however, they by chance do obtain such assistance, at the end of six months comes the question of renewal. The previous indorser may refuse the signature or the bank may object to renewing the document, leaving them at the mercy of one or the other. This is a question of vital importance to commerce in general, but more especially to new houses starting in business that have to compete with larger firms already established, and is one that might be solved by the many private banking firms in the city, but as these have to a certain extent adapted the privileges of the banking law to their respective operations, the result has been that commercial transactions are very much hampered.

In October, 1898, an agreement was made with the Mexican Government for the establishment of a new bank to be considered as coming under the provisions affecting the *bancos refaccionarios*, and in the original contract the institution was called the "Banco Refaccionario." The name was shortly afterwards changed to the present one, "Banco Central Mexicano," and it was opened for business on February 15, 1899. Like the mortgage bank, it is not permitted to put bank notes in circulation. Its principal operations are to discount paper, advance money, carry current accounts, issue drafts, and collect bills in all parts of the Republic, as well as abroad, and to do a general banking business. It may also facilitate money to mining, industrial, and agricultural enterprises for a term not exceeding two years; it may issue cash bonds (*bonos de caja*), bearing interest for periods varying from three months to two years. The \$6,000,000 capital is subscribed half by a syndicate composed of European and American capitalists and the remainder by those of the country.

As all the banks in the several States of the Republic must be shareholders, the Banco Central, acting as their agent in the City of Mexico, receives their notes at face value. This in itself is a great step toward facilitating commercial operations, as formerly merchants often refused to accept a bank note issued outside the City of Mexico, as the rate of exchange from one town to another varied from one-fourth to as much as 10 per cent. There are also several firms, mostly merchants, who undertake banking operations, but their chief business is importing foreign and exporting native goods.

**WATER SUPPLY OF THE CITY OF MEXICO.**

"El Imparcial," of the City of Mexico, of February 24, 1900, contains an article regarding the distribution of water in the capital, showing what the city council has done and will do in the future. The article states that the capital, like many other European and American cities, has experienced great difficulty in securing a water supply and has undertaken works of great importance to obtain the proper amount. When the city of Mexico was known during the time of the Aztecs as the "Nueva Tenoxtitlán," its drinking water was supplied by the spring called "Alberca Chica de Chapultepec." During the colonial period, in 1576, the Santa Fe springs were purchased, which now produce 6,000 liters of water per minute, and in 1786 water was furnished by the Desierto and Leones springs, which now yield 8,000 liters per minute. From that time down to 1888 the city council did not secure any other properties; but in that year it purchased the "Alberca Grande de Chapultepec," which gives 7,000 liters of water per minute. All these acquisitions, however, did not suffice to furnish this necessary element to the city.

In 1896 the city council, fearing a water famine, acquired a water supply from the Hacienda de los Morales, which gives 9,000 liters per minute, and also a supply of 800 liters per minute from the Concesión Chousal. Lastly, in 1899-1900, a supply has been secured from Río Hondo, which, united to that from Morales, produces 30,000 liters per minute. When advantage can be taken of all these, the city will have a supply of 55,000 liters per minute, representing a total of 79,200 cubic meters in twenty-four hours, which, distributed among 400,000 inhabitants, will give each individual 198 liters in that time. This, as may be seen, will give a larger supply to the inhabitants of Mexico than is enjoyed by the population of London, Berlin, Brussels, and even some cities of the United States, like New Orleans, where each inhabitant only has 140 liters per day. And if to the said amount of 55,000 liters there be added 14,000 liters per minute, flowing from the 1,039 artesian wells recorded in the proper office, there will result a total distribution of about 250 liters per day per inhabitant.

"El Imparcial" asserts, however, that the present difficulty consists in that the distribution of the precious liquid is poor, and proves its assertion by showing that in the eight wards of the capital the distribution is by no means uniform; for instance, in the first ward, with 41,000 inhabitants, each one receives but 77 liters per day, while in the eighth ward, with a population of 9,000, each resident receives 219 liters per day. There are at present 6,630 houses, according to official statistics, supplied with water, and the city has 100 kilometers of pipes of different dimensions to carry it. The estimates for supplying water to the city for the present year amount to \$405,780, including the \$200,000

expended in acquiring the Morales deposit. The water tax yields \$250,000 annually to the city coffers.

The present director of the city waterworks has presented a new plan to the city council, embracing the following points: Equitable distribution of water; uniformity of pressure throughout the city, so that it may reach the highest stories of houses; making distinctions in the uses to which the liquid is put; the purifying of the water by means of filters, and the construction of new aqueducts. Under the new plan the 12,000 houses in the city can receive water, and by unifying the tax for the service (at present \$30 per year for soft water and \$48 for hard) can secure a revenue of over \$500,000.

#### GENERAL BERNARDO REYES.

The following biographical notes of Gen. BERNARDO REYES, last month appointed Secretary of War and the Navy of Mexico, are taken from "Modern Mexico" for the current month: "General REYES is a soldier and statesman of unblemished record. He is 50 years old, having been born at Guadalajara in 1850. At an early age he entered a private college, and during the French invasion left his books and, with a few comrades, organized an expedition to fight the intruders, reporting for service to the Republican leader, General ORNELAS." He was taken prisoner in the State of Michoacán, but the commander of the opposing forces, becoming interested in the young soldier, set him free. He organized a second expedition in 1866, joining the Republican forces in the northern part of Jalisco. In October of the year named, after taking part in several engagements, young REYES was promoted to First Lieutenant for gallantry. In December, 1871, he was promoted to Captain of Cavalry.

While acting under this commission, as a member of the staff of General CORONA, he took part in the memorable campaign against the formidable Indian robber and chieftain, LOZADA. For extraordinary bravery in an engagement with the Indian rebels near Guadalajara Captain REYES was advanced to the grade of Major. In March, 1876, he was promoted to a Lieutenant-Colonelcy, and the following year was made a Colonel of Cavalry.

When the Government of President LERDO DE TEJADA succumbed in 1876, the forces under the command of Colonel REYES revolted and deserted him. He reported himself as a prisoner to the new President, Gen. PORFIRIO DÍAZ, who, recognizing his patriotism, gallantry, and loyalty, appointed him Commander of the Sixth Regiment of Cavalry, an organization noted in Mexico for its distinguished gallantry.

Thereafter he was almost continuously engaged in quieting outbreaks in various parts of the country. He received three dangerous wounds in the bloody engagement at Villa Unión in 1880, where his distin-

guished bravery secured him advancement to the grade of General. Shortly after that he was elected Governor of the State of Nuevo León, and was at once recognized as a leader in the progressive movement of that section of Mexico, contributing largely to the cause of education. "He is an educated soldier, an intelligent scholar, a distinguished diplomat, and a true gentleman. He has always been a staunch Liberal, and at all times an earnest supporter and loyal friend and admirer of the greatest statesman of Mexico, Gen. PORFIRIO DÍAZ."

### RECENT TARIFF CLASSIFICATIONS.

Under the Mexican customs tariff the following recent classifications have been made on imported goods:

"Silk ruffles or pleated silk trimmings, even when containing rubber, cotton, or linen threads for the purpose of preserving the shape, are to be assessed for duty under No. 605 of the tariff; duty per legal kilogram, 16 *pesos*."

"Feather trimmings, with foundation of cotton, wool, or linen, are to be dutiable under No. 78 of the Tariff Act; duty per legal kilogram, 4 *pesos*."

"Hats not otherwise specified, not made up, with binding or ornament around the edges, are to be dutiable under No. 916; duty, 1 *peso* each."

"Strips of rubber cloth for hats are to pay duty under No. 79; duty per legal kilogram, 1.50 *pesos*."

### HIGH ART POTTERY.

The "Jewelers Circular" says that for many centuries the people of Mexico have achieved a world-wide reputation in the art of pottery making, and the clay workers of to-day in that country are as proficient in the production of high art pottery as any people in the world. The natives' ingenuity in handling and developing clay has secured for Aguas Calientes, Encarnación, and Guadalajara wares an enviable reputation among the tourists. This one branch of the pottery business in Mexico only serves to show the possibilities of that country and what might be accomplished if native skill were combined with a little capital and a scientific knowledge of the business.

Despite the vast pottery products of Mexico, there is not a complete plant in the country. The consumption of pottery in that country is considerable, but the greater part of the cheaper grades are imported, and therefore very expensive, while the art products are not used by the natives to any extent, but are exported. The high rate of duty, the almost excessive freight rates, and the losses incurred by breakage offer a combination of circumstances that would seem to insure great profits to the home producers. There are many points in favor of

Mexico as a probable location for Americans desirous of establishing potteries on a profitable basis. Clay of great variety and of exceptionally good quality is found in large and rich deposits in many parts of the country. Every line of goods made of clay, including bricks, tile, sewer pipe, as well as all the branches of pottery, could easily be turned out there. The natural ability of the native workers in clay, the cheapness of labor, the abundance of raw material, all combine to offer exceptional inducements to intending investors who have in mind the establishment of plants in Mexico.

#### UNIQUE SAVINGS BANK.

The "Two Republics" says that the clerks of the Treasury Department, some few years since, and at the suggestion of Secretary LIMANTOUR, established a savings bank in which each one might deposit what he pleased and obtain a moderate interest thereon. The bank is open to all employees under the Treasury Department, and hence employees in the custom-houses all over the Republic are admitted. The balance sheet for December 31, 1900, showed a movement of \$841,504 and a balance of cash on hand of \$133,193. The bank now makes loans to clerks at moderate interest.

#### MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS.

The business movement in Mexico for the year 1899, as shown by the books of the Recorder of Public Instruments, is as follows:

January .....	\$7, 387, 398. 07
February .....	9, 742, 443. 52
March .....	9, 686, 092. 51
April .....	4, 799, 262. 61
May .....	6, 713, 275. 43
June .....	8, 224, 135. 71
July .....	4, 829, 384. 68
August .....	6, 296, 571. 45
September .....	15, 650, 549. 65
October .....	5, 267, 844. 08
November .....	8, 918, 626. 18
December .....	6, 857, 401. 60
Total .....	94, 372, 985. 49

The month of September, it will be noticed, was the most prolific in operations. Among the companies incorporated during the month, and which contributed to its great showing, were: The Mexican Motive Power Company, incorporated with a capital of \$10,000,000; the United States Banking Company, incorporated with a capital of \$100,000; the Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company, capital \$502,500; reorganization of the Veracruzana Industrial Company, capital \$1,735,000; sale of the

dry goods establishment El Puerto de Tampico, the amount involved being \$186,814.95. The most notable operation during the month of February was the incorporation of the Banco Central Mexicano, with a capital of \$6,000,000. The leading operation in March was the incorporation of the cigarette manufacturing company known as El Buen Tono, with a capital of \$2,500,000. The largest operation in July was the incorporation of the Parral-Durango Railroad Company, with a capital of \$1,000,000.

#### LEGISLATIVE PALACE.

Active work is now progressing upon the fine new legislative palace in the City of Mexico. Architecturally this structure will be a magnificent addition to the city. Great credit is due the architect, Señor EMILIO DONDÉ, who was awarded the contract over many competitors from all parts of the world. The building is to become the home of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Mexican Republic. Its proportions are to be on a magnificent scale. The frontage of the edifice will be 550 feet and the depth 400. The general height will be 100 feet, with a cupola rising 70 feet higher with a diameter of 70 feet. The basement of the building is 8 feet above the street level, and is to be handsomely set off by parks, while a new street is to be cut through toward the south to connect it with the great driveway leading to the Castle of Chapultepec, known as the "Paseo de la Reforma." The cost of the building will exceed one million dollars.

#### A MUNICIPAL THEATER.

The Mexican Government has purchased the old National Theater and purposes remodelling and greatly improving it at an expense of \$200,000. It will be converted into a modern playhouse in every sense of the word. After the repairs and improvements are completed it is said that the theater will be turned over to the municipality of Mexico, and will be conducted thereafter in the same manner as are the great theaters in the European capitals.

#### NOTES ON INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

The stockholders of the Mexican International Railroad have determined that so soon as the branch line from the city of Durango to Santiago Papasquiaro is completed an extension of the same is to be built to Guanaceví, in the State of Durango. This extension will be completed during this year, over 35 kilometers of grading having been finished and over half of the rails laid. The International road was led to construct this branch line owing to the determination of the Mexican Central Railway to prolong its line from the city of Jiménez

to Parral as far as the Guanaceví mineral region. The work on this line is far advanced. By the beginning of 1901 two of the most important railway lines of Mexico will meet at the rich mineral region of Guanaceví, where preparations are already on foot to lay out a town which is to have two large smelting establishments, after the style of those at the city of Monterey.

According to information sent by Mr. LEWIS KINGMAN, engineer of the Mexican Central at Mexico City, work is to be started early this year on the line from Guadalajara to Colima. Some 162 miles are to be constructed. Mr. SHELDON T. BENT, general superintendent of the Vera Cruz and Pacific road at Orizaba, Mexico, also has sent out a report that an extension of the main line from the Papoloapam to Santa Lucrecia, 128 miles, is proposed, and there will be two branches, one, 71 miles long, to Vera Cruz, and the other, 62 miles long, to Oaxaca. Surveys have been completed for both branches and construction is to begin early this year. Other reports from Mexico show that railroad construction for the current year will be even greater than that of last year. In many instances, however, the work to be started will not commence until early in the summer, but those above mentioned are the exception.

On February 20, 1900, about 100 of the prominent citizens of Chihuahua met in the Betancourt Theater, in the city of Chihuahua, for the purpose of organizing a mining exchange. The meeting was presided over by Col. Don MIGUEL AHUMADA, Governor of the State, in his private capacity. Much enthusiasm prevailed throughout the meeting, leaving no doubt that this important city in the northern States of Mexico will have in a very short time a mining exchange second to none in the Republic in importance.

The Secretary of Promotion having learned that in Germany the manufacture of straw goods, such as baskets, hampers, hats, boxes, etc., is very highly developed, and bearing in mind the natural skill displayed by the Mexicans in this kind of work, by instructions from the President of the Republic, has contracted for the services of a professor in one of the schools where this art is taught in Germany to come to Mexico to instruct those engaged in a similar line of business in that country.

Dr. GEORGE M. TUCKER, for many years in charge of the United States experimental horticultural station in Rhode Island, in February, 1900, assumed the management of the plantation of La Estrella Coffee Company, in the Usila Valley, Tuxtepec District of Oaxaca. The plantation, which is three years old, consists of 4,000 acres. Up to this time the company has planted only coffee, but it is the intention to set out rubber trees on the lowlands adjoining the river. Before the end of the year a modern coffee-cleaning plant will be installed by the company.

An agriculturist of San Felipe, State of Guanajuato, has invested \$12,000 in a new industry, which consists in extracting by distillation alcohol from the species of prickly pear known by the local name of *tuna cardona* and the honey mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*). By the system employed double the quantity of alcohol is obtained than by any other known system, and besides the residuum is a splendid food for animals.

A large consignment of machinery has been received for the soap factory at Gomez Palacio, Durango, which is to be conducted by the newly organized company styled "La Compañia Jabonera de la Laguna," which has also obtained a concession for the manufacture of glycerine. The company intends expending at least \$200,000 upon this new undertaking, and will have the establishment in running order within two years.

On February 26 the new electric-light plant established in Irapuato, Guanajuato, was utilized for the first time in lighting the city. The occasion was one of great rejoicing, being celebrated with a kirmess, bullfight, and a grand ball in honor of Señor OBREGÓN GONZÁLES, Governor of the district, to whom was accorded the honor of turning on the electric current at the plant in the evening.

"La Gaceta Commercial" states that it is estimated that about 500 buildings are in the process of construction in the City of Mexico, which fact has largely increased the demands on establishments where building materials are sold, and has caused a considerable rise in the wages of bricklayers, carpenters, etc.

The company recently formed at Albany, N. Y., and mentioned in the February BULLETIN as intending to build the Mexican Mineral Railroad, was organized to take this road over, it having been in existence for some years.

The British Consul at Tampico, Mexico, informs his Government that the recent fire in that city has caused a demand for fire equipments. The engines will necessarily have to be light but strongly built. Particulars doubtless may be obtained of the United States Consul in Tampico.

The English Mining Syndicate, at the head of which are the Messrs. ROTHSCHILDS, has just obtained possession of the Somara mine, formerly owned by Mr. CHARLES LANE. One million five hundred thousand dollars was the price paid for this mine.

The gold production of Mexico last year was in the neighborhood of 50,000 ounces more than the previous year, while the production of silver was about 3,000,000 ounces more than in the year 1898, in which production it is the leading nation in the world.

Owing to the seismic disturbances at Colima during the latter part of February, the work on the tramway which was being constructed



to connect the port of Manzanillo with the copper mines in the vicinity was entirely suspended.

The Conquista Coal Railway Company of Mexico has been incorporated, with a capital stock of \$80,000, by J. T. GARNER, J. L. ELLIOTT, and C. J. PEABODY, of New York.

The proprietors of "La Garita" coffee plantation, situated between Pochutla and Puerto Angel, have discovered several oil deposits on their land, and purpose forming a company for the exploitation of the discovery.

The Boleo copper mine, belonging to the ROTHSCHILDS, is said to have produced \$4,200,000 last year, the net profits being over \$2,000,000.

Morelia, in the State of Michoacán, is the latest edition to the constantly increasing number of cities being lighted by electricity.

The Mexican International Railroad has begun work on a branch line between Monclova and Sierra Mojada.

Reports from Tecomatlán, in the State of Puebla, and southward from the city, are to the effect that the English company which has been working the Le Royal coal property have found the real article in quantity and of a good quality.

#### HONORS TO PRESIDENT DÍAZ.

Early in February the Mexican people expressed at the polls their choice for a Presidential candidate for the term from 1900 to 1904. On the 6th of March a convention met to canvass the result of the election, and found that 1,456,482 citizens had cast their votes in favor of the present incumbent of the Presidential chair, General PORFIRIO DÍAZ. This insures the induction into office of the President on December 1 next, for a fifth term of four years.

The University of Pennsylvania, on February 22, 1900, conferred upon General PORFIRIO DÍAZ, President of the Republic of Mexico, the honorary degree of doctor of laws. The President was represented by Señor Don MANUEL ASPÍROZ, Ambassador of Mexico.

#### GENERAL CUSTOMS BUREAU.

On February 19, 1900, the President promulgated a law establishing a General Customs Bureau under the Department of the Treasury, which is to have full charge of all matters relating to the custom-houses and tariff duties.

#### NEW FREIGHT RATES.

Representatives of the Mexican Central held a meeting in New York City, recently, with officials of other Mexican lines, for the purpose of discussing the freight rate situation under the new law regulating rates, which went into effect on January 1, 1900. One provision

of the law prohibits the making of higher rates to any point between the place of origin and destination, when a rate is made for a long haul. Another is, that nothing which can be and is produced or manufactured in Mexico can be hauled from the frontier to any Mexican point at a less rate than is given on freight brought into the country from the United States.

#### SALES OF PUBLIC LANDS.

During the six months from July to December 31, 1899, the Government disposed of 268,037 hectares of lands, in different parts of the Republic; this is equal to about 662,320 acres, for which the sum of \$190,320 was paid by the various purchasers. The titles for these lands numbered 250, and were given under the terms of the laws, July 22, 1863, and March 26, 1894. The foregoing are distinct from the minor operations, in which lots were sold to settlers, divisions made of community lands among Indians, etc.

#### PEACE MONUMENT IN PUEBLA.

A group, cast in bronze in Paris, representing a Mexican soldier and a French zouave clasping hands and an angel standing behind holding over them the olive branch of peace, has been placed upon its pedestal in the center of the French cemetery in the city of Puebla. It is notable work of art; the two soldiers are perfectly natural in attitude and expression. This monument has been raised by the French colony in Puebla, where the soldiers of both nations engaged in sanguinary conflict on several occasions. Its purpose is to show that the implements of war have been laid aside forever, and that former animosities have been forgotten, and that to-day the French citizen is the close friend of the Mexican citizen, and trade and commerce reign supreme.

#### ABOLISHMENT OF THE FREE ZONE.

A dispatch states that the business men of Juárez, Mexico, held a mass meeting on March 4, 1900, to petition President PORFIRIO DÍAZ to abolish the free zone of Mexico, in which Juárez is situated, and which is 60 miles in width south of the Rio Grande. The merchants contend that the free zone is detrimental to them, as well as to manufacturing interests, and that the industries in the free zone are stagnated, for the reason that the products of this territory can not be shipped either to the interior of Mexico or to the United States without paying duty. A committee was appointed to draw up a petition and reported the same at another meeting on March 11th.

**INDIAN IMMIGRANTS FROM THE UNITED STATES.**

Secretary DICK, of the Ketowah Society, and ex-chief clerk of the Cherokee Council, says that there will be at least 35,000 or 40,000 Indians who will eventually locate in Mexico after the United States Government has settled with them for their tribal property; the value of the land of the Cherokees and the Creeks being about \$100,000,000. The Indians do not approve of the allotment plans, and prefer to sell outright to the Government. The Mexican Government has granted 8,000,000 acres of land for the settlement, it is said.

**THE GROCERY TRADE.**

The grocery trade of Mexico, which formerly was almost exclusively in the hands of Spaniards, is now controlled in great part by citizens of the United States. Several large grocery houses have lately been established in the business centers of Mexico City by them, and the houses seem to prosper, if one can judge by the enlargements which are constantly being made, says a French consular report. On the other hand, their number is also increasing quite rapidly, which proves that the trade is large enough to support competition.

**TREATMENT FOR YELLOW FEVER.**

A correspondent in Mérida, Yucatán, writing to "El Mundo" says that injections of a simple solution of marine salt and pure water have given good results in the treatment of yellow fever. All the patients who have been subjected to this treatment, even those who had already reached the black-vomit stage, recovered.

This news is very important if subsequent experiments confirm it.

All the persons treated at Mérida by this method had contracted the yellow fever at Vera Cruz.

**INCREASED RAILWAY EARNINGS.**

"El Mundo," of the City of Mexico, for March 7, 1900, states that year by year an increase is noted in the earnings of the Mexican railroads. In 1898 these earnings reached the sum of \$30,930,333 and in the year just past they rose to \$35,791,493, showing an increase of \$5,861,160 in favor of 1899. In January of this year the earnings were \$2,701,000, while in the same month of 1899 they were \$2,318,000. The figures for February are not yet at hand. The increase in the railroad earnings necessarily indicates an increase in traffic, since the transportation rates have suffered but slight modifications. In the year

1899 there were more orders for rolling stock and other railway material for the Mexican railroads than for any other year within a decade.

### COLONIZATION AND IMMIGRATION LAWS.

For the benefit of numerous inquirers who have addressed this Bureau on the subject of the special privileges allowed settlers in Mexico, it is proper to say that the colonization and immigration laws of the country have no reference whatever to individuals; that special rights and privileges are granted only to organized colonies operating under a concession. The duties imposed upon household furniture, etc., which has been in use, are as a general rule 50 per cent off the rates of the custom tariff on new goods of the same class.

### MILITARY AFFAIRS.

The Mexican army to-day consists of 8 generals of division, 53 generals of brigade, 944 field officers, 2,481 officers, 27,247 soldiers in rank and file, 6,533 horses, and 2,875 train mules.

The "Two Republics" states that President DIAZ, the Secretary of War, General REYES, and Secretary of the Treasury LIMANTOUR are studying and discussing a project for increasing the pay of the Mexican soldier from 38 and 50 cents per day, which he now gets, to 75 cents and \$1. The *rurales* and the mounted *gendarmes* are already getting \$1 per day, and their pay will probably be increased also.

The Government is quietly importing large, heavy mules from Texas for the artillery service, and has lately renewed the orders for a large lot of horses for the cavalry. The recent experience of the Secretary of War on the frontier has shown him what these animals can do in the way of military service.

The government of the State of Puebla has purchased 200 Texas horses for the State *rurales*. At the coming 5th of May celebration the Puebla *rurales* will parade with their new mounts and uniforms of buckskin.

### EXHIBITS AT PARIS.

The Mexican Government is making the Paris-Mexican exhibit the most extensive of the great resources of this country ever given. The Department of Agriculture, up to March 10, 1900, has sent 2,100 packages of all kinds.

### EUROPEAN COLONISTS.

The Minister of Fomento has signed a contract with Messrs. ENRIQUE SARDANETA and ALEXANDER LEGLER, giving to them the concession of the Government's lands situated in the State of Chiapas. These

agents bind themselves to establish 200 families of European nationality on these lands.

Lots of ground are being distributed at Paleupa, Chiapas, among the colonists recently brought there by the gentlemen named above, pursuant to their contract with the Department of Promotion. Up to March 1, 382 individuals, comprised in 193 families, all of German nationality, have arrived at this colony.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to the courtesy of Gen. FRANCISCO CANTÓN, Governor of the State of Yucatán, to Gen. ABRAHAM BANDALA, Governor of the State of Tabasco, and to Señor Don RAFAEL GARCÍA MARTÍNEZ, Governor of the Territory of Baja California, for exhaustive manuscript and printed data concerning the respective Commonwealths over which they so worthily preside. The data thus furnished is most full and complete, giving a description of the two States and Territory named and full details regarding the population, industries, agricultural interests, etc., and will be used in the forthcoming Handbook of Mexico, now in preparation.

According to the "Lucifer," a newspaper published in Tepic, Territory of the same name, during the year 1899, in the town of Jalisco, in the said Territory, there died 11 people who were over 89 years of age, as follows: One aged 89, one aged 90, one aged 95, three aged 98, two aged 99, one aged 101, one aged 102, and one aged 104. The individual who died at the ripe age of 102 was a soldier under the famous curate HIDALGO, and fought at the historic battle of Puente de Calderón.

The total revenues of the City of Mexico for January, 1900, were \$571,125.77, and the total disbursements were \$432,296.44, leaving a balance of \$138,829.33 to the account of February. Of the disbursements the sum of \$25,000 went to the National Bank of Mexico toward interest and redemption of the London municipal loan.

The United States is Mexico's best buyer. During the first half of the present fiscal year three-fourths of Mexico's export commodities have found their way into the former country. The United States is in fact the only country dealing with Mexico which does not hold the balance of trade in its favor.

The Governor of the State of Mexico has approved the plan for the installation of more meteorological stations throughout the State. The station at Sultepec will be under the charge of FRANCISCO FERREIRA; Cuautitlán, under AGUSTÍN FERADO, while ANGEL PONS will look after Texcoco.

According to the official data of the Secretary of War and Marine the Mexican merchant marine consists of 266 vessels, with a united tonnage of 17,046. Of these vessels, 41 are steamers, representing 10,314 tons, and 225 are sailing vessels, with 6,732 tons, measurement capacity.

The work of revising the penal code and the code of criminal procedure of the State of Campeche is being actively prosecuted by the four lawyers appointed to that end by the Governor of the State.

On February 22, 1900, the forty-sixth anniversary of the opening of the National Agricultural School was celebrated in the City of Mexico by a literary-artistic function.

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## NICARAGUA.

### MINERAL AND FOREST PRODUCTIONS.

Gold and silver, says the "Nouveau Monde" of January 27, 1900, are found in abundance in certain mountains and in the placers which enrich the banks of many of the rivers in Nicaragua. The mining region is in the chain of mountains extending toward the coast of the Caribbean Sea, and as yet have been scarcely explored. At present only the gold mines are worked, and the famous silver mines, whose production was so great in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, are now abandoned owing to lack of working capital.

The Departments of Nueva Segovia and of Chontales are renowned for the wealth of their mines and furnish almost all of the gold exported from the country. It is in the district of La Libertad, in the Department of Chontales, where the mining industry has been developed for the greatest length of time. The yield of these mines varies from one-half to two ounces per ton and the fineness of the gold is from 14 to 20 carats. The deposits in the Department of Nueva Segovia are richer, their yield being from one-half to three ounces per ton, but the bad condition of the roads makes the introduction of machinery very difficult, and to this is due the fact that mines which produce less than one ounce of gold per ton are not profitable to the owners. All the mountains, hills, and almost all the rivers of the department contain gold, silver, copper, tin, antimony, lead, and other metals, specimens of which were shown at the Paris Exposition in 1889, where they attracted much attention; nevertheless almost all of this region remains unexploited. The Macuelizo and Dipilto mines, which under Spanish rule produced large quantities of silver, are to-day abandoned, gold mining yielding larger profits.

Gold is mined in the districts of Jicaro, Murra, Los Encinos, and Las Vueltas. In other districts there are also mines of great value,

but they yield very little, either through lack of working capital or meagerness of water supply. In the Department of León the gold and silver mines of San Luis are worked on a large scale by an English company (San Francisco Mining Syndicate) with considerable success. An America consular report estimates the value of the output at \$750,000.

The Department of Matagalpa is equally rich in precious metals, needing only capital and better means of communication to transform this region into a mining center of great importance. The district of El Viejo, in the same department, contains gold deposits yielding eight ounces per ton. The richest placers are found on the banks of the Prinzapulca and the Wava, on the coast of the Caribbean Sea. In 1893 their monthly production was estimated at from 500 to 800 ounces. Mr. GAMEZ calculated the annual production of gold of the Nicaraguan mines the same year to be 22,754 ounces.

The territory between the lakes and the Pacific Ocean contains iron deposits which yield 48½ per cent of pure iron. Copper, lead, etc., are found in quite large quantities in the Departments of Nueva Segovia, Matagalpa, León, Jinotega, and in the district of Prinzapulca. Lime is found near Tipitapa, in the volcano Las Oilas, and near Chinandega. Coal, plaster, salt, sulphur, and kaolin are found everywhere in the country. There are hot springs at the Momotombo volcano and sulphur springs near Tipitapa.

The Nicaraguan mining code, published in 1897, which is very liberal in its provisions, is based upon the old Spanish mining law. All machinery is admitted free of duty and no local tax is imposed on the mines. Foreigners can obtain concessions to exploit mines under the same conditions as the natives.

#### THE CITY OF CORINTO SINKING.

A writer in the "New York Tribune" says the continued subsidence of the town of Corinto is causing alarm in Nicaragua, it being the principal port of the country on the Pacific Ocean. The Government has again sent engineers to study the situation. The town is situated on the southwestern end of the island of Corinto, cut off from the mainland by an estuary, through which, until about two years ago, the tides freely ebbed and flowed, the high-water mark being about 8 feet. Then a rock and dirt dam was constructed across the estuary, causing the water to overflow a large part of the lower or swampy portions of the island, and to this fact is attributed the present condition of affairs. The subsidence was noted and reported to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in 1890 or 1891, by Mr. JOHN CRAWFORD, a member of that body, who was engaged in exploring Nicaragua and studying the natural history of that country.

**DEMAND FOR RAILWAY SERVICE.**

"El Comercio," a leading newspaper of Managua, in a recent editorial urged upon the Government of the Republic the building of a railroad from Granada to the port of Bluefields, calling attention to the great advantages to the country which the said lines would afford. "El Comercio" states that "the resources of the coast, now almost unexploited, owing to the at times unsuperable difficulties with which communication contends, would powerfully contribute to the prosperity of Nicaragua, and cities which are now almost forgotten, buried in a profound lethargy, would awaken upon hearing the hoarse voice of the locomotive crossing through the depths of the forest. \* \* \* Our trade with the Atlantic coast, now so small, would be multiplied marvelously; our communication with the United States would be infinitely easier and more frequent; immigrants would unceasingly flow toward our shores, and even the work of reincorporation would be definitively sealed, since we should no longer look upon that territory as a locality foreign to our customs."

**TRIBUNAL OF ACCOUNTS.**

The National Assembly of the Republic is reported to have recently amended several articles of the Code of Civil Procedure and it is discussing a new tariff relative to shipping duties. At the same time, the Government of Gen. ZELAYA, in order to follow its wise retrenchment of public expenditures, and especially official sinecures, has decreed that the Bureau of Great Accounts (*Contaduría Mayor*) and that of Ordinary Accounts shall be merged in a single bureau, to be called the "Inferior Tribunal of the Republic's Accounts."

**RECENT TARIFF DECREE.**

The President of the Republic, on January 8, 1900, promulgated a decree to the effect that in the desire to stimulate the introduction of fine liquors, from and after the 1st of May next the sale of strong foreign liquors will be free, thus repealing from said date the decrees of March 8 and October 26, 1898.

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**PARAGUAY.****ARBITRATION WITH THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.**

A general treaty of arbitration has been signed at Asunción by Señor JOSÉ S. DECOUD, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Paraguay, and Dr. LAURO CABAL, representing the Argentine Government. The



contracting Governments bind themselves in the first article to submit to arbitration all disputes of any character which may arise between the two countries so long as they do not affect the mandates of the Constitution of either country, whenever these disputes can not be settled by prompt and direct negotiations. The other articles are in conformity with the usual line of such treaties.

Thus, it is declared that the questions already settled can not be opened, but that the arbitrator, if an attempt should be made to reopen them, shall limit himself exclusively to the interpretation and execution of the arrangement already concluded. The arbitral tribunal is to be composed of three judges, each country appointing one and the two agreeing upon the third. If these three can not succeed in settling the question, they are to agree upon the head of a third country, as a supreme arbitrator; but if they can not agree upon the choice of that arbitrator, the President of the Swiss Republic is to be respectfully requested to appoint the third judge, who shall be the president of the tribunal.

#### **CHANGE OF POSTAL RATES.**

According to a report of Consul RUFFIN, of Asunción, a change in the postal rates occurred in Paraguay on November 1, 1899. By this the rate for letters destined for the United States and European countries is doubled, or, instead of 20 cents (4.8 cents United States currency) per one-half ounce, as formerly, the amount now required is 40 cents Paraguayan money (9.6 cents United States currency).

#### **INCREASED ISSUE OF PAPER MONEY.**

At the special session of Congress, recently adjourned, a bill was passed providing for the emission of \$5,000,000 in paper currency. At the same time a call was made for bids for printing 2,933,000 bills, amounting to \$15,000,000.

#### **CENTRO AGRICOLA BANK.**

The "Paraguay Rundschau" states that a banking company has been formed in Villa Concepción under the title of "Centro Agrícola" for the purpose of assisting agricultural interests in that district. It is to have a capital of \$200,000 in shares of \$100 each.

#### **PURCHASES PAYABLE IN GOLD.**

The "Südamerikanische Rundschau" states that the majority of the largest importers and exporters of the country have come to an understanding through which they have bound themselves to accept in future only gold payments or the equivalent thereof for purchases made on time. Only cash sales are to be hereafter made with paper currency.

## PERU.

## TARIFF ON HATS AND HAT MATERIAL.

On November 28, 1899, a law which is to go into effect on May 1, 1900, was enacted by the Peruvian Government. This law changed the tariff rates on imported felt hats and fur for the manufacture of hats, with a view to the protection of the recently established native hat industry. By this enactment the valuation of the following items was increased, the duty on each being 45 per cent except where otherwise specified:

No. 544. Shapes of hats, of felt, cloth, or beaver, with or without brim or crown, for men and boys, per dozen, 7.50 *sols*, increased from 5 *sols* per dozen.

No. 892. Hats of beaver or felt, with stiff brim, not trimmed, low crown, for men and boys, valuation 2.50 *sols* each, increased from 2 *sols* each.

No. 893. The same, soft, for men and boys, valuation 1.875 *sols* each, increased from 1.50 *sols* each.

No. 894. Hats of fulled wool, common, stiff, for men and boys, per dozen, 18.75 *sols*, increased from 15 *sols* per dozen.

No. 895. The same, soft, for men and boys, per dozen, 15 *sols*, increased from 12 *sols*.

No. 896. Hats of felt of woolen waste, with lining of cotton, for men and boys, per dozen, 10 *sols*, increased from 8 *sols* per dozen.

No. 896a. (New section.) Ordinary hats of felt of woolen waste, with lining and band of silk or "mixture" or with any other ornament, per dozen, 12 *sols*; rate of duty, 40 per cent.

No. 1032. Shapes of fulled wool for hats and caps, for women, per dozen, 7.50 *sols*, increased from 5 *sols* per dozen; rate of duty, 40 per cent.

No. 2425. Fur, rabbit, and hare, for hats, per kilogram gross weight, 1.25 *sols*, reduced from 3 *sols* per kilogram gross weight; duty, 40 per cent.

## RECTIFICATION OF MANIFESTS.

In virtue of a decision of the Peruvian Minister of Finance, of November 29, 1899, the rectification of detailed manifests should take place within thirty days from the presentation of the said manifests. After this time the rectification will only be permitted upon written proof presented before the customs authorities, giving the cause or causes of the errors. In this case the written statement of rectification will be appended to the corrected manifest.

**SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES AT PARIS.**

The Government has appointed as special representatives of the Republic at the Paris Exposition the following gentlemen: ALFRED AYULO, Consul at Paris; EDWARD LEMBECKE, Consul at London; DALMACE MONER TOLMOS, Consul at Antwerp; Senator ANTERO ASPILLAGA, and Mr. GEORGE HART.

**THE RAINLESS REGION.**

The country where it rains the least in Peru and known as the rainless region, is found in the neighboring region of the city of Payta. In February, 1899, it is true, it rained for twenty-four hours, but this was the first rainfall in eight years, the average duration between showers being seven years.

Payta is situated in 5° south latitude, on the coast. Fogs are quite frequent and the flora is very poor, only nine kinds being found here, seven of which are annual. The seeds of these latter often remain seven years in the soil, awaiting the beneficent rain which is to make them germinate. In spite of the absence of rain, the inhabitants subsist, thanks to the growth of the Peruvian cotton, which, with its long roots, can go without water for seven years, and which furnishes abundant and profitable crops.

**DEMAND FOR COTTON.**

The demand for cotton in Peru is said to be very strong and prices have advanced rapidly in sympathy with the cotton of the United States. The incoming crop is estimated at about 2,500 bales, but it must be remembered that a large part of the crop is composed of low qualities and that the weather conditions easily affect the supply. A large stock, therefore, can not be accumulated in that country.

**THE YIELD OF ALPACA WOOL.**

The alpaca-wool product of Peru is estimated at about 2,000 tons per annum, although the yield for the present year is believed to be somewhat greater. That country is the original home of the alpaca, and no other region can produce such fine wool of this class. The export of the alpaca alive is strictly prohibited by the Government, although an Englishman succeeded many years ago in smuggling some specimens to Australia, where their descendants now exist in considerable numbers. The Australian alpaca wool, however, is of a much lower quality than that produced in Peru.

**MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.**

A dispatch, dated Lima, March 7, 1900, states that recent inundations in the Department of Muquogua have caused losses to property estimated at \$1,500,000. The inhabitants of this section of the country are petitioning the Government to exempt them from the payment of taxes because of this flood.

The shipments of Peruvian guano during the year 1898 aggregated 21,826 tons, which was increased to 30,795 tons in 1899. According to the "American Fertilizer," there are now afloat, or ordered, 52,375 tons of this guano.

Mr. HENRY GUYER, of Casapalca, on February 27, 1900, was granted a patent on a furnace for desulfurizing ores by the United States Patent Office.

**SALVADOR.****MINING ACTIVITY.**

The "Diario del Salvador" states that there is great activity in the mining districts of the eastern Departments of the Republic; that the number of mines being worked is larger than ever before, and that the operations are being conducted very largely by foreign capital. The salaries paid the native workmen are reported to be high, and general satisfaction seems to reign throughout the region. The Government has taken steps to encourage mining, and the newspaper asserts that the authorities intend to renew their efforts to build the railroad to the east during the present year.

**MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.**

DON AURELIO ARIAS has just finished a relief map of the Department of San Salvador, which is said to present a fairly good perspective of the topography of the Department, with its volcanoes, mountains and hills, and rivers, and the situation of the cities, towns, etc.

The International Telephone line between Guatemala and Salvador has been completed as far as the Salvador frontier to a point called Jalpatuaga. The construction of the line from San Salvador toward the Guatemalan border is progressing rapidly.

## UNITED STATES.

## TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

## STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin American countries. The report is for the month of January, 1900, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the seven months ending January, 1900, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1899. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the complete returns for January, for example, are not published until some time in March:

## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	January—		Seven months ending January—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Chemicals:</b>				
Logwood ( <i>Palo campeche</i> ; <i>Páu campeche</i> ; <i>Campeche</i> )—				
Mexico .....	\$1, 578	\$327	\$13, 886	\$2, 453
Coal, bituminous ( <i>Carbón bituminoso</i> ; <i>Carvão betuminoso</i> ; <i>Charbon de terre</i> ):				
Mexico .....	22, 823	6, 161	147, 512	88, 811
Cocoa ( <i>Cacao</i> ; <i>Coco ou Cacao crú</i> ; <i>Cacao</i> ):				
Central America .....	803	3, 899	8, 591	4, 711
Brazil .....	27, 100	507, 088	469, 490	810, 899
Other South America .....	86, 046	15, 598	740, 925	876, 719
Coffee ( <i>Café</i> ; <i>Café</i> ; <i>Café</i> ):				
Central America .....	329, 317	397, 575	1, 129, 029	1, 073, 373
Mexico .....	261, 399	484, 804	733, 447	1, 297, 226
Brazil .....	3, 992, 851	3, 838, 113	18, 404, 359	19, 282, 598
Other South America .....	506, 999		3, 559, 025	2, 088, 345
Cotton, unmanufactured ( <i>Algodón en rama</i> ; <i>Algodão en rama</i> ; <i>Coton, non manufacturé</i> ):				
South America .....	17, 630	25, 404	69, 102	99, 729
<b>Fibers:</b>				
Sisal grass ( <i>Henequén</i> ; <i>Henequen</i> ; <i>Hennecquen</i> )—				
Mexico .....	769, 582	1, 387, 798	5, 197, 964	5, 641, 193
Philippine Islands .....	230, 281	144, 734	1, 378, 042	1, 853, 462
<b>Fruits:</b>				
Bananas ( <i>Plátanos</i> ; <i>Bananas</i> ; <i>Bananes</i> )—				
Central America .....	116, 651	146, 194	974, 986	1, 246, 096
South America .....	40, 692	68, 562	239, 402	559, 783
Oranges ( <i>Naranjas</i> ; <i>Laranjas</i> ; <i>Oranges</i> )—				
Mexico .....	370	305	136, 088	183, 895
Fur skins ( <i>Pieles finas</i> ; <i>Pelles</i> ; <i>Fourrures</i> ):				
South America .....		6, 561	63, 978	110, 101

## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	January—		Seven months ending January—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Hides and skins ( <i>Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux</i> ):				
Central America .....	\$17, 395	\$41, 899	\$160, 933	\$265, 303
Mexico .....	240, 825	267, 513	983, 114	1, 232, 246
South America .....	681, 963	1, 529, 830	5, 348, 534	6, 421, 167
India rubber, crude ( <i>Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut</i> ):				
Central America .....	124, 504	91, 398	473, 457	438, 300
Mexico .....	6, 963	19, 683	48, 483	104, 958
Brazil .....	2, 218, 189	3, 380, 457	7, 724, 556	10, 315, 337
Other South America .....	86, 239	1, 943	554, 485	614, 567
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. ( <i>Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em lingados, barras, etc.; Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.</i> ):				
Mexico .....	239, 481	141, 143	1, 127, 554	1, 381, 228
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard ( <i>Azúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão holandez; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16</i> ):				
Central America .....	16, 032	5, 584	38, 705	46, 315
Mexico .....	1, 703	834	8, 019	30, 830
Cuba .....	180, 490	368, 315	3, 531, 148	5, 053, 851
Brazil .....	81, 525	298, 589	209, 936	298, 589
Other South America .....	783, 870	615, 716	3, 701, 543	3, 740, 873
Hawaiian Islands .....	922, 527	278, 567	7, 725, 448	11, 511, 285
Philippine Islands .....	110, 575	107, 063	969, 323	906, 801
Tobacco, leaf ( <i>Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles</i> ):				
Mexico .....	443	3, 029	205, 251	49, 418
Cuba .....	528, 212	1, 217, 943	1, 752, 231	4, 496, 083
Wood, mahogany ( <i>Caoba; Mogno; Acajou</i> ):				
Central America .....	50, 000	24, 429	256, 880	195, 663
Mexico .....	37, 930	57, 826	208, 882	232, 971
Cuba .....		27, 847	7, 200	82, 129
South America .....	1, 482	1, 980	8, 691	15, 110
Wool ( <i>Lana; Lã; Laine</i> ):				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing) .....	13, 985	445, 301	35, 235	528, 221
Class 2 (combing) .....			106	132
Class 3 (carpet) .....	60, 832	7, 450	230, 010	293, 076

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements ( <i>Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles</i> ):				
Central America .....	\$69	\$254	\$5, 245	\$5, 577
Mexico .....	14, 639	29, 903	92, 205	181, 724
Santo Domingo .....	57	160	223	2, 881
Cuba .....	1, 484	10, 441	7, 595	87, 772
Puerto Rico .....	455	217	876	3, 994
Argentina .....	161, 315	142, 888	1, 158, 674	1, 489, 451
Brazil .....	6, 609	1, 241	18, 906	15, 364
Colombia .....	41	4	1, 271	708
Other South America .....	27, 738	21, 033	208, 501	230, 615
Animals:				
Cattle ( <i>Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail</i> )—				
Central America .....			3, 320	450
Mexico .....	20, 635	13, 801	59, 538	91, 947
South America .....	130		2, 943	490
Hogs ( <i>Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons</i> )—				
Mexico .....	1, 285	6, 942	32, 751	58, 107
Horses ( <i>Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux</i> )—				
Central America .....			4, 470	250
Mexico .....	5, 880	9, 107	52, 254	71, 697
South America .....			2, 439	1, 830
Sheep ( <i>Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons</i> )—				
Mexico .....	975	1, 232	9, 365	9, 209
South America .....	655	750	5, 255	4, 982

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	January—		Seven months ending January—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Books, maps, engravings, etc. (<i>Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	\$2,330	\$3,318	\$20,570	\$39,126
Mexico.....	3,446	10,786	30,248	71,931
Santo Domingo.....	181	174	5,011	603
Cuba.....	3,286	10,175	12,954	35,198
Puerto Rico.....	895	1,714	6,877	8,165
Argentina.....	1,761	2,810	10,619	19,422
Brazil.....	6,158	1,041	32,285	44,132
Colombia.....	8,871	826	24,675	42,495
Other South America.....	19,461	10,239	105,085	32,736
<b>Breadstuffs:</b>				
<b>Corn (<i>Maiz; Milho; Maïs</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	2,225	3,857	19,000	28,583
Mexico.....	2,794	6,170	18,569	137,252
Santo Domingo.....			2	51
Cuba.....	38,776	69,474	99,698	314,439
Puerto Rico.....		249		2,109
South America.....	2,360	1,281	13,173	61,979
<b>Wheat flour (<i>Harina de trigo; Farinha de trigo; Farine de blé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	93,271	69,950	574,744	455,946
Mexico.....	16,745	16,078	76,877	91,493
Santo Domingo.....	12,821	16,335	66,597	66,538
Cuba.....	182,257	202,075	910,262	1,264,260
Puerto Rico.....	24,106	70,642	210,724	407,292
Brazil.....	336,320	244,937	2,161,893	1,252,725
Colombia.....	33,871	13,245	199,615	176,995
Other South America.....	127,198	103,684	781,403	922,003
<b>Wheat (<i>Trigo; Trigo; Blé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	3,868		24,247	5,200
South America.....	17,027	719	140,719	20,431
<b>Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of (<i>Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	3,764	3,146	29,519	13,415
Mexico.....	45,396	109,098	257,389	665,104
Santo Domingo.....	7,518	11,009	18,338	16,751
Cuba.....	16,253	19,170	71,531	146,514
Puerto Rico.....	571	1,852	1,384	19,718
Argentina.....	13,920	14,826	417,540	226,219
Brazil.....	20,389	4,980	60,985	154,617
Colombia.....	1,003	355	19,144	15,782
Other South America.....	2,641	4,258	36,659	33,892
<b>Cycles and parts of (<i>Biciclos y sus accesorios; Bicycles e accessorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	275	176	3,764	2,155
Mexico.....	3,335	1,600	25,735	17,596
Santo Domingo.....	96		221	202
Cuba.....	425	25,428	2,366	116,457
Puerto Rico.....	190	327	1,615	1,611
Argentina.....	28,584	9,080	100,337	115,040
Brazil.....	2,538	1,499	40,750	19,730
Colombia.....	152	2,771	4,734	5,859
Other South America.....	5,402	6,101	33,084	44,707
<b>Clocks and watches (<i>Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	82	453	1,593	1,782
Mexico.....	2,052	1,459	15,284	17,322
Argentina.....	625	3,655	13,340	15,776
Brazil.....	4,668	5,311	46,658	42,117
Other South America.....	7,985	6,739	62,507	41,665
<b>Coal (<i>Carbón; Carvão; Charbon</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	1,586	1,065	7,662	13,491
Mexico.....	115,350	105,027	624,086	802,601
Santo Domingo.....	1,203	4,039	8,150	8,917
Cuba.....	86,112	71,131	354,893	291,723
Puerto Rico.....	6,723	7,453	21,237	22,509
Brazil.....	19,278	17,201	106,650	54,104
Colombia.....	8,940		12,365	20,157
Other South America.....	8,006	8,190	137,096	45,555

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	January—		Seven months ending January—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Copper (<i>Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre</i>):</b>				
Mexico .....	\$17,364	\$56,574	\$144,899	\$218,374
<b>Cotton, unmanufactured (<i>Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton, non manufacturé</i>):</b>				
Mexico .....	150,747	117,886	783,251	396,639
<b>Cotton cloths (<i>Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacture</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	29,801	62,657	303,741	418,783
Mexico .....	48,392	32,922	264,600	314,014
Santo Domingo .....	14,547	8,664	92,094	34,678
Cuba .....	40,535	18,968	99,325	337,292
Puerto Rico .....	5,323	12,005	11,068	101,129
Argentina .....	15,170	12,381	138,892	78,091
Brazil .....	16,073	12,327	353,410	271,320
Colombia .....	36,394	16,469	220,042	160,805
Other South America .....	134,251	173,825	874,528	570,243
<b>Wearing apparel, cotton (<i>Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	21,435	31,831	110,081	219,317
Mexico .....	38,230	53,606	212,819	258,483
Santo Domingo .....	6,351	2,711	20,191	8,485
Cuba .....	12,482	8,965	30,054	107,090
Puerto Rico .....	1,144	1,994	4,531	21,244
Argentina .....	11,722	1,287	49,660	12,972
Brazil .....	1,335	2,451	27,837	28,564
Colombia .....	2,068	1,650	29,449	26,774
Other South America .....	6,204	6,375	28,976	45,698
<b>Fruits and nuts (<i>Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noixettes</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	2,431	3,002	16,378	22,303
Mexico .....	7,705	5,924	48,985	50,970
Santo Domingo .....	140	304	1,590	2,019
Cuba .....	4,565	4,685	44,114	65,260
Puerto Rico .....	555	1,920	2,710	9,562
Argentina .....	1,298	389	5,499	2,576
Brazil .....	1,018	819	13,166	16,407
Colombia .....	590	748	4,252	5,562
Other South America .....	1,654	1,217	14,945	13,762
<b>Instruments:</b>				
Electric and scientific apparatus ( <i>Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Aparelhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques</i> )—				
Central America .....	11,100	5,997	59,432	33,976
Mexico .....	60,155	32,675	243,500	283,763
Argentina .....	15,142	17,653	127,228	189,982
Brazil .....	10,333	13,249	71,038	115,063
Other South America .....	9,747	20,953	63,139	91,110
<b>Iron and steel, manufactures of:</b>				
Steel rails ( <i>Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier</i> )—				
Central America .....	3,548	210	26,140	13,157
Mexico .....	27,120	65,511	331,974	282,476
South America .....	28,642	430	193,825	150,439
<b>Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (<i>Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	7,405	7,338	46,978	58,480
Mexico .....	28,493	37,369	171,725	278,945
Santo Domingo .....	1,055	1,786	6,925	5,763
Cuba .....	40,252	25,291	104,221	223,049
Puerto Rico .....	572	3,482	3,493	18,263
Argentina .....	16,805	23,478	141,655	184,783
Brazil .....	15,093	14,901	127,665	165,055
Colombia .....	15,028	2,230	65,905	66,648
Other South America .....	14,785	34,170	129,364	179,147



## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	January—		Seven months ending January—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Iron and steel, manufactures of—Continued.</b>				
Sewing machines and parts of ( <i>Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accessorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties</i> )—				
Central America.....	\$1,760	\$6,596	\$13,604	\$18,666
Mexico.....	24,777	24,391	117,859	141,001
Santo Domingo.....	95	698	1,177	1,064
Cuba.....	1,916	10,315	2,738	46,934
Puerto Rico.....	368	145	1,181	1,408
Argentina.....	8,006	15,378	69,194	105,922
Brazil.....	7,504	5,630	49,168	78,805
Colombia.....	4,090	703	40,412	9,507
Other South America.....	8,374	16,279	76,923	98,130
Typewriting machines and parts of ( <i>Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir e accessorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties</i> )—				
Central America.....	149	65	1,597	1,718
Mexico.....	3,786	6,631	16,962	31,211
Santo Domingo.....	50	5	130	109
Cuba.....	1,687	1,248	6,534	15,154
Puerto Rico.....	370	171	2,331	1,559
Argentina.....	3,339	2,681	16,289	25,085
Brazil.....	191	270	2,510	7,097
Colombia.....	100	164	2,284	1,400
Other South America.....	768	7,241	9,293	15,148
<b>Leather, other than sole (<i>Cuero, distinto del de suelo; Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	2,156	5,744	7,172	14,007
Mexico.....	12	3,385	5,059	23,849
Santo Domingo.....	190	92	1,157	374
Cuba.....	2,135	3,601	3,206	21,641
Puerto Rico.....	314	541	2,872	2,459
Argentina.....	272	9,465	14,830	41,297
Brazil.....	4,935	7,613	24,196	51,400
Colombia.....	26	107	1,126	1,390
Other South America.....	3,287	3,682	16,602	23,541
<b>Boots and shoes (<i>Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	8,144	9,440	54,293	92,437
Mexico.....	11,313	30,353	74,771	206,831
Colombia.....	4,024	4,317	19,724	32,446
Other South America.....	1,411	3,098	27,100	24,040
<b>Naval stores:</b>				
Rosin, tar, etc. ( <i>Resina y alquitrán; Resina e alcatrão; Résine et goudron</i> )—				
Central America.....	1,212	1,307	8,838	8,422
Mexico.....	2,128	355	5,752	4,460
Santo Domingo.....	773	389	1,926	1,733
Cuba.....	953	2,483	3,831	10,242
Puerto Rico.....	74	195	788	1,318
Argentina.....	31,435	34,426	69,055	121,994
Brazil.....	22,634	4,083	117,893	101,777
Colombia.....	1,447	635	7,594	5,974
Other South America.....	4,045	7,344	55,423	66,075
Turpentine, spirits of ( <i>Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine</i> )—				
Central America.....	232	839	1,875	3,618
Mexico.....	531	470	2,232	2,410
Santo Domingo.....	73	67	325	248
Cuba.....	5,267	3,509	12,348	29,495
Puerto Rico.....	356	402	1,408	2,089
Argentina.....	1,837	21,026	24,967	89,978
Brazil.....	3,830	6,455	30,951	41,545
Colombia.....	461	91	3,417	2,323
Other South America.....	3,999	9,684	20,650	39,579
<b>Oils, mineral, crude (<i>Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos mineraes, crus; Huiles minérales, brutes</i>):</b>				
Mexico.....	32,944	41,547	187,900	234,920
Cuba.....	27,493	49,157	111,293	209,097
Puerto Rico.....				9,333

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	January—		Seven months ending January—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (<i>Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minerales, raffinées ou manufacturées</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	\$13,463	\$13,518	\$74,568	\$78,935
Mexico.....	14,899	15,310	87,066	110,210
Santo Domingo.....	569	6,127	23,084	27,061
Cuba.....	15,164	8,575	63,265	45,800
Puerto Rico.....	15,633	2,734	42,715	21,193
Argentina.....	33,849	147,681	396,687	933,012
Brazil.....	110,241	154,113	937,963	1,111,201
Colombia.....	8,366	7,725	69,115	73,317
Other South America.....	98,328	148,185	389,123	682,051
<b>Oils, vegetable (<i>Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetaes; Huiles végétales</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	508	548	2,347	4,108
Mexico.....	39,010	107,903	267,198	546,125
Santo Domingo.....	1,552	3,737	15,117	17,565
Cuba.....	1,671	2,123	4,876	27,898
Argentina.....	6,669	6,164	13,986	20,413
Brazil.....	8,978	10,264	117,274	115,902
Other South America.....	11,648	12,380	45,801	71,860
<b>Paraffin and paraffin wax (<i>Parafina y cera de parafina; Parafina e cera de parafina; Paraffine et cire de cetté substance</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	773	7,598	16,299	19,507
Mexico.....	18,871	32,428	123,871	209,944
Brazil.....	994	1,317	8,208	10,668
Other South America.....	76	4,507	3,755	12,986
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:</b>				
<b>Beef, canned (<i>Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca em latas; Bœuf conservé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,542	1,841	11,073	17,843
Mexico.....	1,543	1,412	9,316	12,415
Santo Domingo.....	11	33	43	66
Cuba.....	3,692	335	7,659	4,068
Argentina.....			326	365
Brazil.....	834	4,004	9,925	24,804
Colombia.....	520	709	2,413	5,826
Other South America.....	1,129	1,572	6,274	14,453
<b>Beef, salted or pickled (<i>Carne de vaca salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumure</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	2,260	4,083	18,835	24,171
Mexico.....	231	72	338	1,705
Santo Domingo.....	550	170	2,131	2,676
Cuba.....	2,997	579	16,261	6,328
Puerto Rico.....	64	224	576	1,464
Brazil.....	398	66	1,874	3,422
Colombia.....	1,638	1,341	7,182	11,618
Other South America.....	16,423	13,422	119,113	108,068
<b>Tallow (<i>Sebo; Sebo; Suif</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	8,740	7,290	51,709	44,660
Mexico.....	1,966	1,738	21,149	15,042
Santo Domingo.....	1,116	1,009	5,454	7,232
Cuba.....	782	179	18,362	1,929
Puerto Rico.....	75	84	303	467
Brazil.....	5,681		30,331	11,719
Colombia.....	1,284		4,707	7,441
Other South America.....	373	2,765	12,071	30,610
<b>Bacon (<i>Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,108	1,968	10,884	15,739
Mexico.....	739	1,506	8,399	13,632
Santo Domingo.....	146	223	945	1,209
Cuba.....	51,618	48,035	251,641	506,768
Puerto Rico.....	6,412	6,088	36,755	40,604
Brazil.....	28,403	11,600	331,221	90,632
Colombia.....	59	103	849	1,187
Other South America.....	1,573	626	9,332	4,009
<b>Hams (<i>Jamones; Presunto; Jambons</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,659	2,701	13,213	18,814
Mexico.....	2,449	3,695	18,512	29,393

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	January—		Seven months ending January—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—</b>				
Continued.				
<b>Hams (<i>Jamones; Presunto; Jambons</i>)—Cont'd.</b>				
Santo Domingo .....	\$987	\$990	\$4, 225	\$3, 452
Cuba .....	68, 741	64, 367	269, 718	428, 014
Puerto Rico .....	356	5, 159	5, 739	25, 422
Brazil .....	427	372	2, 555	2, 809
Colombia .....	1, 037	1, 839	7, 621	10, 504
Other South America .....	5, 937	5, 333	49, 807	49, 296
<b>Pork (<i>Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	5, 911	7, 749	37, 116	44, 245
Santo Domingo .....	502	391	3, 018	4, 506
Cuba .....	4, 410	53, 141	15, 579	207, 393
Puerto Rico .....	8, 121	26, 858	77, 175	128, 367
Brazil .....	165	1, 300	5, 700	2, 539
Colombia .....	866	1, 152	4, 196	27, 001
Other South America .....	17, 645	11, 328	143, 483	100, 554
<b>Lard (<i>Manteca; Banha; Saindoux</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	9, 980	19, 506	80, 939	103, 889
Mexico .....	27, 225	51, 419	96, 938	280, 923
Santo Domingo .....	2, 056	2, 508	15, 394	12, 293
Cuba .....	183, 200	248, 957	722, 071	1, 135, 023
Puerto Rico .....	9, 873	30, 541	135, 625	150, 897
Argentina .....	527	750	1, 421	2, 909
Brazil .....	80, 380	32, 643	768, 202	493, 098
Colombia .....	6, 026	9, 665	46, 698	82, 759
Other South America .....	47, 681	68, 769	338, 223	442, 934
<b>Oleo and oleomargarine (<i>Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Oléo et oléomargarine</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	384	1, 331	1, 012	4, 130
Mexico .....	116	156	449	742
Puerto Rico .....	3, 541	981	9, 219	13, 169
Colombia .....	804	413	5, 053	5, 362
Other South America .....	2, 044	1, 408	10, 484	9, 941
<b>Butter (<i>Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	3, 589	5, 895	27, 142	33, 241
Mexico .....	5, 736	4, 194	27, 385	26, 208
Santo Domingo .....	683	1, 982	6, 561	4, 911
Cuba .....	16, 638	5, 120	42, 072	30, 177
Puerto Rico .....	565	246	4, 834	1, 396
Brazil .....	22, 126	11, 205	95, 001	132, 675
Colombia .....	901	1, 730	7, 746	9, 454
Other South America .....	11, 134	4, 975	67, 982	31, 074
<b>Cheese (<i>Queso; Queijo; Fromage</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	1, 057	2, 699	9, 770	14, 255
Mexico .....	2, 062	988	9, 844	14, 857
Santo Domingo .....	529	1, 321	2, 682	3, 850
Cuba .....	8, 848	2, 574	43, 212	22, 644
Puerto Rico .....	1, 562	3, 758	5, 927	17, 661
Brazil .....	122	9	568	69
Colombia .....	694	584	4, 602	4, 985
Other South America .....	1, 581	250	9, 010	8, 042
<b>Sugar, refined (<i>Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	942	3, 250	10, 623	20, 443
Mexico .....	2, 751	5, 241	7, 757	16, 673
Santo Domingo .....	144	86	838	408
Colombia .....	1, 922	750	7, 872	6, 940
Other South America .....	114	480	1, 383	1, 549
<b>Tobacco, unmanufactured (<i>Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	434	6, 144	10, 598	18, 019
Mexico .....	3, 412	12, 899	80, 800	112, 599
Argentina .....	5, 150	850	12, 455	5, 903
Colombia .....	816	640	3, 501	4, 637
Other South America .....	5, 878	7, 552	55, 338	57, 336

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	January—		Seven months ending January—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Tobacco, manufactures of (<i>Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	\$4,890	\$3,169	\$31,603	\$32,508
Mexico.....	755	597	7,832	3,141
Cuba.....	14,583	15,135	59,453	88,841
Argentina.....	1,275	1,077	3,986	18,572
Brazil.....			500	352
Colombia.....	121	851	2,868	4,363
Other South America.....	5,037	10,272	50,471	28,520
<b>Wood, unmanufactured (<i>Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	9,081	1,698	20,684	8,863
Mexico.....	19,995	64,428	202,417	127,388
Cuba.....	1,848	5,961	18,263	31,664
Argentina.....	1,328	3,679	12,306	13,602
Brazil.....			4,284	
Colombia.....	6,461		20,026	6,704
Other South America.....	240		14,100	58,544
<b>Lumber (<i>Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	2,673	2,826	33,486	28,894
Mexico.....	79,629	101,371	405,432	591,533
Santo Domingo.....	3,030	990	14,076	14,566
Cuba.....	83,270	95,483	312,548	510,269
Puerto Rico.....	6,445	17,067	12,946	107,619
Argentina.....	93,514	104,323	612,487	647,984
Brazil.....	30,329	27,871	258,777	295,732
Colombia.....	3,880	7,089	25,006	46,843
Other South America.....	58,592	36,603	291,435	347,206
<b>Furniture (<i>Muebles; Mobilia; Meubles</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	3,506	3,602	23,980	25,971
Mexico.....	21,479	39,709	120,931	222,302
Santo Domingo.....	767	1,760	3,784	3,652
Cuba.....	7,289	35,278	18,366	172,328
Puerto Rico.....	2,111	2,128	5,937	22,784
Argentina.....	3,962	5,733	34,619	76,888
Brazil.....	1,716	1,127	18,241	26,395
Colombia.....	3,212	1,404	15,463	10,907
Other South America.....	6,184	6,245	40,762	40,772

## SALTBUSHES FOR ARID LANDS.

The saltbush as a herbaceous perennial plant is particularly adapted to arid or alkali-impregnated soil where no other vegetation can exist. It constitutes an excellent food for sheep, horses, hogs, and chickens. It has almost the same nutritive value as alfalfa, and it would seem that it is destined to become a rival of this well-known plant. The saltbushes are rich in protein compounds and therefore form an excellent food for fattening purposes, the digestibility being about the same as that of oat straw.

There are many species of this plant now in cultivation in the United States, both native and foreign, but those which have given the best results in the various experimental stations are the Australian saltbushes which were introduced into California in 1881, by VON MUELLER. Owing to its thin flexible stems, it can be handled like alfalfa, while most of the other saltbushes are only fit for browsing. Sheep are especially fond of it, and in the opinion of VON MUELLER many of the valuable qualities of the Australian wools are due to the

abundance of this and other saltbushes in the regions where the sheep graze. A crop of Australian saltbushes will produce from 15 to 20 tons of green food per acre, or from 3 to 5 tons of dry forage.

There are extensive areas of land in the United States so strongly alkaline that none of the cereals, grasses, or clovers will grow on them. Saltbushes will grow on many of these lands and produce a considerable amount of excellent forage. Many lands impregnated with black alkali may be reclaimed and made to produce ordinary crops by planting and cropping saltbush, which removes large amounts of the alkali from the soil. Soils which, in a slight degree, are too alkaline for the growth of cereals may be relieved in a few years by this method.

#### REVIVAL OF SHIPPING TO BRAZIL.

A report from Baltimore states that the increased demand for sailing ships, owing to the scarcity of coal abroad and the withdrawal of British steamers for war service, is causing a great revival in charters of "square riggers" and the old Baltimore clippers; and the Brazilian trade out of that port, which was almost extinct, has revived with a wonderful rapidity. Where a few months ago barks of the Rio fleet were being withdrawn and sent to the West Indies with coal, additional vessels are now being chartered for the Brazilian trade. The British steamers formerly carried good-sized general cargoes to Brazil and other South American countries and brought back coffee to the United States at rates far below those which would afford a living for the United States sailing vessels. Mr. C. MORTON STEWART, the owner of the Stewart fleet of barkentines out of the port of Baltimore to Brazil, says that all of his vessels are now back in the Rio trade, which has greatly improved, with strong indications of a still greater increase.

#### NEGRO LABOR FOR BOLIVIA.

A dispatch from New Orleans, dated February 20, 1900, stated that Capt. FRANK MORITZ, of Pennsylvania, and ROBERT SKIFFINGTON, of Chicago, Illinois, had arrived in that city from Bolivia, after having explored the Upper Amazon country and purchasing 4,700 square miles of rubber land in that section from the Republic of Bolivia. This tract of country will be cultivated in rubber orchards by the "Chicago and Bolivia Rubber Company," and the gentlemen named were in New Orleans for the purpose of arranging for United States labor. On their trip to Bolivia, after a thorough investigation, they were convinced that the native labor, which is altogether Indian, is entirely unsatisfactory, and they propose to substitute for it negro workmen from the United States.

**TRADE BETWEEN SEATTLE AND CULIACAN.**

Mr. F. E. BUTTERFIELD, of Culiacán, Mexico, representative of the Occidental Railway Company, recently visited Seattle, Washington, and completed arrangements for the purchase and shipment of coal and lumber for the use of that corporation. He stated that heretofore the coal supply had been received from the Territory of New Mexico, but that the supply had been very irregular and the freight rates over two railway lines made it expensive. At least 5,000 tons of coal are required, and a vessel is to be chartered to make not less than five trips a year between the two ports. Besides coal, a considerable quantity of lumber has been contracted for, and on the return trips of the vessels Mexican ore is to be transported to the United States. It is believed that the value of the coal and lumber purchased in the State of Washington for this company during the present year will amount to \$50,000, exclusive of the cost of carriage.

**PUERTO RICAN TOBACCO CROP.**

The annual production of Puerto Rican tobacco is said to be about 60,000 bales of 100 pounds each, or in the neighborhood of 6,000,000 pounds. The acreage of the crop of 1899 was reported at 4,225 acres. A normal crop is anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000 bales suitable for use in the United States. The crop for 1900, which is about ready to cut, is reported as extraordinary and may amount to 30,000 bales.

**TRADE WITH THE LATIN-AMERICAN REPUBLICS.**

The trade between the United States and the Latin-American Republics, says the "Nouveau Monde," of Paris, in its issue of February 17, 1900, shows a remarkable increase for 1899, and although it has not yet reached its full development it is increasing daily. A great number of products coming from American factories, which were formerly almost unknown in the Central and South American markets, now compete advantageously with the European products. Among these products it is noticed that articles of manufactured leather which formerly came from Europe are to-day imported in large quantities from the United States.

**INCORPORATION OF CUBAN ELECTRIC COMPANIES.**

The "Puerto Principe Tramway Company" was recently incorporated in Trenton, New Jersey, with a capital of \$200,000. This company proposes to build a street railroad and electric, water, gas, and lighting plants in Puerto Principe, Cuba, for which it claims to have secured the necessary franchise. The Puerto Principe Electric Company has also

been incorporated by the same parties. The city named is the oldest town in the island, and there are no modern improvements whatever except an electric-light plant. A very large number of its inhabitants are employed in agricultural pursuits and cattle raising. The fact that the city is 54 miles from its nearest seaport, Nuevitas, has had much to do with its lack of progressive development, notwithstanding that the railroad which connects the two cities was the first constructed on the island. This road is a single track, with extra wide gauge, of antiquated construction and equipment, and the entire day is required to make the round trip.

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## URUGUAY.

### FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION.

The Uruguayan Congress convened in ordinary session on February 15, 1900. The President's message, which is very long, recapitulates the labors of the Government during the past year, and shows a very satisfactory financial and economic situation. The revenue last year, according to a cabled message, was \$15,750,000, an increase of over \$500,000 on the previous year. The year closes with an insignificant deficit. The imports last year amounted to \$24,000,000, and the exports to \$37,000,000, against \$30,000,000 in the previous year.

The Government promises to continue its policy of economy, order, and attention to economic interests. Several important decisions await the decision of the Chambers.

### CUSTOMS RECEIPTS OF FOUR YEARS.

The "Montevideo Times" publishes the following regarding the customs receipts of Uruguay for the past four years: In 1896, \$10,261,829; in 1897, \$8,550,573; in 1898, \$9,872,977; in 1899, \$10,004,937. This would show that the foreign trade of the Republic had made a considerable recovery over the years 1897 and 1898, and that the returns for the present year may equal, if not surpass, the year 1896 and the average of the three years 1894-1896, which were notable periods of activity in commercial affairs.

### SPANISH COMMERCIAL MUSEUM IN MONTEVIDEO.

Much importance is attached in the Spanish commercial world to the creation of commercial museums in the principal cities of South America. An institution of this kind already exists in Buenos Ayres, and the Spanish colony of Montevideo is organizing a commercial museum on one of the most frequented streets of that city, which will

at the same time be a depot for samples of Spanish articles. The MONTHLY BULLETIN for November, 1899 (pp. 674-675), contained an account of the establishment of a French commercial museum in Montevideo. From this and from other significant movements it would seem that the European countries are making strenuous efforts to increase their commerce with the South American countries. Is the United States to be less active in pursuit of trade in this part of the world?

#### ESTIMATED POPULATION.

It is the custom in the Bureau of Statistics at Montevideo to make an official estimate of the population of the whole Republic every year. According to a late publication of the said bureau the population of the Republic on January 1, 1899, was estimated at 860,000 inhabitants.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The commercial and navigation treaty between Germany and Uruguay, which was ratified by the Government of the latter country in December last, as noted in the January number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN, was also ratified by the Berlin Government on January 24 of this year.

Proposals will be received up to July 31, 1900, for the \$12,500,000 harbor improvements at Montevideo, reference to which has been made in several recent numbers of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

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### AGRICULTURE IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The principal sources of the wealth of the Argentine Republic are its agricultural and pastoral industries. Up to the year 1870 the Republic imported nearly all the flour it used from Chile and many other of its agricultural commodities from the neighboring countries, notwithstanding the extreme richness of its own soil and the varieties of climate which it enjoyed. During the Paraguayan war, however, agriculture was given such an impetus it was discovered that, with comparatively slight effort, wheat and maize could be raised in quantities sufficient for the supply of the whole of the River Plate region. It was also found that the soil was so bountifully intermingled with natural phosphates that (except in seasons where there was either a lack of rain or, as it sometimes happens, an excessive precipitation of moisture) it would yield crops unsurpassed in abundance.

The dates for seeding and harvesting vary in the different Prov-



inces and Territories owing to their geographical situation and physical configuration. In Buenos Ayres, Entre Rios, and Santa Fé, wheat, barley, and oats are sown from May to July. Maize is planted from September to November, and lucern is sown in April and May and in September and October. Wheat, oats, and barley are harvested in December and January, and maize is gathered in February and in April. Previous to 1888 the exports of wheat and maize to Europe were comparatively insignificant, but since then the shipments have grown to great proportions and are climbing upward. Especially is this true of wheat.

It must be remembered that this Republic is comparatively a new country, with only 4,092,990 inhabitants (Indians included) in 1895; that it has 270,000,000 acres of land, of which only 12,088,144 acres (most of which have been continuously devoted to the same kinds of crops) were under cultivation in 1895; that many branches of agriculture are but now in their incipiency; that the methods of cultivation of the soil are comparatively primitive in their character, but that, naturally, it is one of the greatest grazing countries in the world.

Yet, in spite of its youth, its primitiveness, and the sparseness of its population (3.64 per square mile), the Argentine Republic plays an important part in the commerce of the world in wheat, maize, wool, and hides, and is destined to assume almost or quite as commanding a position in linseed, flax, and meat products. Recently this country has become a great purchaser of improved agricultural machinery the greater part of which is supplied by United States manufacturers.

#### RESULTS OF THE CENSUS OF 1895.

The results of the national census of 1895, relative to the agricultural industries of the country, were not published by the Argentine Government until recently, but now that the statistics have appeared they furnish much interesting information. However, the figures are not as complete as they doubtless will be hereafter, since such matters have been placed under the direct supervision of the Minister of Agriculture, a cabinet position created within the past two years and now filled by Dr. MARTÍN GARCIA MÉROU, but recently Minister from his country to the United States.

The area of the cultivated land, as ascertained by this census, including that devoted to the cultivation of trees and plants, aggregated 12,088,144 acres, as compared with 6,076,486 acres according to the census of 1888, showing a remarkable increase of 98 per cent in seven years. The number of cultivated acres, exclusive of those devoted to trees, etc., was 11,583,504 in 1895 and 5,987,221 in 1888. The area devoted to tree culture was 89,265 acres in 1888 and 504,640 in 1895.

The great increase in the acreage devoted to crops in the years occurring between the dates of the two censuses was due almost entirely to the culture of cereals, especially to wheat and maize, and more particularly to the former. In 1888 wheat was grown on 2,014,947 acres and in 1895 on 5,064,767 acres, an increase of more than 151 per cent.

In 1888 maize was grown on 1,980,724 acres, while in 1895 it was produced on 3,074,374 acres. The area devoted to barley in 1895 was 134,852 acres, as against 70,848 acres in 1888.

Linseed is classed as a cereal in the Argentine returns, and in the cultivation of this plant the increase has been rapid, the area devoted to it being 299,245 acres in 1888 and 957,078 in 1895.

The area given up to minor products, such as potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans, pease, turnips, lentils, chicory, mandioca, etc., was 101,130 acres in 1888 and 222,244 in 1895. Industrial plants were produced on 308,581 acres in 1895, against 140,214 acres in 1888. In 1895 these included the following: 82,677 acres in vines; 151,406 acres in sugar cane; 33,297 acres in peanuts, etc.; 39,029 acres in tobacco, and 2,172 acres in cotton. There were no returns for cotton in 1888, and each of the other products classed as industrial shows an increase of from 35 to 200 per cent over that year.

The principal forage crop of the country is lucerne or alfalfa, of which there were 1,762,295 acres in 1895, as against 963,712 acres in 1888. The other forage crops occupied but 59,556 acres in 1895.

Regarding live stock, it is stated that owners are believed to have generally underestimated the dimensions of their herds and flocks in 1895 for fear of increased taxation. The "Reporter of the Census Commission" therefore thinks that, to approximate the truth, the returns should be increased by about 20 per cent. The statistics relative to cattle were as follows for both 1895 and 1888:

	1895.	1888.	Difference.
Native cattle .....	14, 197, 159	17, 574, 572	3, 377, 413
Cross bred .....	4, 672, 348	3, 388, 801	1, 289, 547
Pure bred .....	72, 216	37, 858	34, 358
Dairy cows .....	1, 800, 799	.....	1, 800, 799
Draft oxen .....	953, 004	960, 426	7, 422
Total .....	21, 701, 526	21, 960, 657	260, 131

In 1888 the dairy cows were not separately returned; these are generally cross-breeds as the native cow is a poor "milker." According to the total given above it would appear that there was a diminution of 260,131 in the total number of cattle, but it will be noticed that there was a great increase in the number of pure bred and cross-bred cattle. Relative to the population, there were 5.14 head of cattle to each inhabitant.

The number of sheep in 1895, as compared with the number in 1888, was as follows:

	1895.	1888.	Difference.
Native breeds .....	17,938,061	21,322,214	6,384,153
Cross breeds .....	56,106,187	42,002,871	14,103,316
Pure bred .....	335,314	381,012	45,698
Total .....	74,379,562	66,706,097	7,673,465

The Argentine Republic is second only to Australia, which has 100,000,000 sheep, with regard to the number of sheep for each inhabitant, as it had 18.50 sheep to each man, woman, and child in 1895. It will be noticed that the increase in the number of sheep was wholly in the cross-breeds.

The other live stock figuring in the returns (which, aside from ostriches and poultry, represents an increase of 1,392,184 head) included the following:

	1895.	1888.	Difference.
Horses.....	4,446,859	4,234,062	202,827
Asses and mules.....	483,369	417,491	65,875
Goats.....	2,748,860	1,894,386	854,474
Hogs.....	652,766	393,758	255,008
Ostriches.....	82,497	176,125	93,628
Poultry.....	9,111,322	5,299,877	3,811,445
Total .....	17,525,673	12,415,672	5,110,001

The total value of all the live stock in the Republic in 1895 was estimated at \$1,144,423,466 Argentine currency, or, calculated at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  cents on the dollar, about \$381,475,000 in United States currency. Of this latter amount, cattle represented \$222,842,000 and sheep \$122,625,000.

#### RELATIVE RANK IN GRAIN PRODUCTION.

In the years 1888 and 1895 the Argentine Republic occupied the twelfth place in the list of wheat-producing countries, its product representing 1.69 per cent of the total yield. In 1898 it was estimated that the crop of this country was 2.8 per cent of the grand total of the world, and in 1899 that it was about 4 per cent, and that the Republic now ranks in the eighth place. It is also believed that within the next ten years, if the present rate of development continues, the Argentine Republic will occupy a position as a wheat-producing country second only to the United States.

With respect to maize, in the opinion of BROOMHALL, the statistician, the Argentine Republic ranks third in the list of the producing countries of the world, but the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture only accords it the sixth place in his estimates of the maize producers.

## AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS FOR 1898-99.

Mr. E. LAHITTE, Chief of the Statistical Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, has published a report relative to the crops of the Argentine Republic for the year 1899. He says that when the Ministry of Agriculture was formed, the 1898-99 crops were then in stack, and there was nothing to enable the area sown with wheat, etc., to be ascertained by the Department, and there were no proven means at hand to obtain an immediate estimate of the extent of the crop. But, remembering that wheat, linseed, and other cereals passed through the hands of the threshers, it was evident that to obtain an intelligent idea it was only necessary to find out what the threshers were doing throughout the country.

The number of threshers was ascertained to be 3,253, and appropriate books were furnished them for collecting data. By July 15 the returns from 32,626 farms had been received. Thus, for the first time, was the Government enabled to secure anything like reliable statistics of the agricultural products of the country in any year other than that in which the national census was taken.

## PRODUCTS OF THE FOUR PRINCIPAL PROVINCES.

The four principal agricultural Provinces are Santa Fé, Buenos Ayres, Córdoba, and Entre Ríos, and it was from these that the statistics were obtained in 1899. The statistics as compiled by Mr. LAHITTE were in hectares, kilograms, and metric tons, as the metric system is employed in the Argentine Republic, but for convenience the first two are reduced to acres and pounds, the terms used in the United States. The hectare is 2.471 acres; the kilogram is 2.2046 pounds; the ton, representing 1,000 kilograms, or 2,204.6 pounds. For the Provinces named the products were as follows:

Province.	Wheat.		Linseed.		Oats.		Barley.	
	Area.	Yield.	Area.	Yield.	Area.	Yield.	Area.	Yield.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Santa Fé.....	2,733,020	868,188	324,551	92,483	2,172	799	6,254	2,133
Buenos Ayres.....	1,651,564	801,354	118,264	45,956	27,450	14,578	15,522	7,107
Cordoba.....	1,194,286	447,821	128,578	32,898		105	1,109	408
Entre Ríos.....	535,110	199,444	46,524	11,739	615	307	2,649	1,377
Total.....	6,163,980	2,316,807	617,917	183,076	30,795	15,789	25,534	11,025

Province.	Canary seed.		Rye.		Clover seed.	
	Area.	Yield.	Area.	Yield.	Area.	Yield.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Santa Fé.....	5,243	850	235	52	5	1
Buenos Ayres.....	3,983	1,287	1,997	871	10,274	591
Cordoba.....	74	13	111	33	339	17
Entre Ríos.....	86	32	346	157	0	0
Total.....	9,386	2,182	2,689	1,113	10,618	609

These totals were made prior to receiving the complete reports of 678 threshers, which, it is believed, will increase the total area to about 7,413,000 acres and the total yield to 2,900,000 tons.

#### AVERAGES IN THE PROVINCES AND DEPARTMENTS.

Of the four Provinces, Buenos Ayres shows the highest state of cultivation. Santa Fé, which is the oldest agricultural Province of the Republic, has relatively the smallest yield. The average yield in each was as follows:

	Buenos Ayres.	Santa Fé.
	<i>Kilograms per acre.</i>	<i>Kilograms per acre.</i>
Wheat .....	484	314
Flaxseed .....	388	237
Oats .....	533	400
Barley .....	456	345
Canary seed .....	328	163
Rye .....	463	226
Clover seed .....	57	41

Of the 83 wheat-growing departments of the Province of Buenos Ayres, only 23 show an average yield of less than 15 bushels per acre, while in the 17 departments of the Province of Santa Fé not one had as great an average yield.

In Santa Fé, the departments of Castellanos and San Martin show an average yield of wheat of 14.12 and 14.10 bushels per acre, respectively. In Buenos Ayres, the departments of Pehuajo and Tres Arroyos had an average yield of 24.08 and 23.11 bushels per acre, respectively. The smallest yields in Santa Fé, in the departments of La Capital and Garay, were only about 3 and 4 bushels per acre, while in Buenos Ayres, in the departments of Alfina and Guamini, the smallest yields were 5 and 8 bushels per acre.

A similar situation exists in regard to linseed. In Santa Fé, the highest yield was 10.39 bushels per acre, or less than that of Buenos Ayres, while in the several departments the average was 17.9 bushels per acre, while the maximum yield was in the department of Florencio Varela, about 26 bushels per acre.

The average yield in the other agricultural Provinces was as follows:

	Córdoba.	Entre Ríos.
	<i>Bushels per acre.</i>	<i>Bushels per acre.</i>
Wheat .....	13.37	13.40
Flaxseed .....	9.43	9.22
Oats .....	6.94	16.70
Barley .....	13.35	17.42
Canary seed .....	6.44	13.81
Rye .....	10.20	16.72
Clover seed .....	2.15	0

The highest average yield of wheat in Cordoba was in the departments of Colon and Totoral, with 31.31 bushels and 27.80 bushels per

acre, respectively. In Entre Rios the departments of Nogoya and Diamante showed 16.22 and 16.19 bushels per acre, while the minimum in the Province of Córdoba was in the department General Roca, with 4.57 bushels. In Entre Rios, in the department of Villaguay, the average was 7.54 bushels per acre.

Linseed, in the Province of Córdoba, showed the greatest yield in the department of Marcos Juárez, with 15 bushels per acre. The smallest was in the department of Tercero Arriba, with 7.27 bushels per acre, while in Entre Rios the highest was in the department of Gualaguey, with 16.19 bushels, but in the department of La Paz there were only 4.45 bushels per acre. The oldest and most extensively cultivated of the agricultural part of the Argentine Republic is the Province of Santa Fé, which, however, is behind those where agriculture has been established later but on a greater scale, as is the case in Buenos Ayres, Córdoba, and Entre Rios, since in these latter the products, especially those of wheat and linseed, show much higher yields than in Santa Fé. The number of farms or *estancias* in the year 1898-99 were: in Buenos Ayres, 12,411; Santa Fé, 13,752; Córdoba, 4,350, and Entre Rios, 4,875. The sizes of these, according to the number of hectares (which are here reduced to acres), in each of the four principal Provinces, were as follows:

Hectares.	Acres.	Buenos Ayres.	Santa Fé.	Córdoba.	Entre Rios.
1-25	2.47- 61.78	4,537	2,962	630	3,284
26-50	64.25- 123.55	2,976			
51-100	125.92- 247.10	2,563	4,314	1,035	1,078
101-200	249.57- 494.20	1,624	5,012	1,861	445
201-300	496.67- 741.30	440	1,105	617	33
301-400	743.77- 988.40	138	211	129	12
401-500	990.87-1,235.50	47	95	43	4
501-600	1,237.97-1,482.60	31	39	17	4
601-700	1,485.07-1,729.70	16	10	8	4
701-800	1,732.17-1,976.80	10	2	2	2
801-900	1,979.27-2,223.90	9	1	4	2
901-1,000	2,226.37-2,471	2	-----	1	2
Over 1,000	Over 2,741	18	1	4	5

The cultivation of these *estancias* was carried on as follows:

	By owners.		By leaseholders.		On shares.	
	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
Buenos Ayres.....	3,291	26.5	7,639	61.5	1,481	11.9
Santa Fé.....	5,352	38.9	5,422	39.4	2,978	21.6
Córdoba.....	1,832	42.1	1,395	32.0	1,124	25.8
Entre Rios.....	2,940	60.3	1,234	25.3	701	14.4

#### PRODUCTION OF TOBACCO AND SUGAR CANE.

The tobacco industry in this Republic is said to be progressing steadily. The annual consumption is calculated at 14,000,000 kilos, of which 12,000,000 kilos is of home production. With regard to the distribution of tobacco plantations, it is found that Corrientes and

Misiones rank first, with a production of about 8,000,000 or 8,500,000 kilos per annum. Following these, the rank is Salta, Tucumán, and Córdoba. The import duties on tobacco produce about \$1,500,000. The capital invested in the manufacture of tobacco is estimated at \$32,600,000.

The capital employed in the sugar-cane plantations of the Republic amounts to \$3,959,500, gold, and \$30,388,000, paper. Four Provinces, Tucumán, Salta, Jujuy, and Santiago, and two Territories—Chaco and Formosa—are devoted to sugar-cane culture, more than 60,000 hands being employed in the industry.

#### EXPORTS IN 1899.

According to the tables prepared by the "Review of the River Plate" and published January 12, 1900, the exports of agricultural and pastoral products from the Argentine Republic during the year 1899—a bale of wool, sheepskins, or hair, being 450 kilos (992.07 pounds); a bale of goatskins, 370 kilos (816.70 pounds); a bale of hay, 50 kilos (110.23 pounds); a hogshead of tallow, 200 kilos (440.92 pounds); a case of butter, 25 kilos (55.12 pounds)—were as follows:

Wheat, 1,791,668 tons (65,831,854 bushels); wheat flour, 54,044 tons; wheat bran, 64,186 tons; maize, 1,122,720 tons (42,663,360 bushels); linseed, 216,426 tons; sugar, 29,110 tons; oilseed, 90,284 bags; birdseed, 2,436 bags; quebracho, 163,687 tons; tobacco, 11,659 bales; hay, 885,163 bales; butter, 49,399 cases; wool, 513,863 bales (509,789,066 pounds); sheepskins, 72,310 bales; goatskins, 3,423 bales; hair, 6,230 bales; frozen wethers, 1,959,564; tallow, 71,293 hogsheads; dry oxhides, 2,031,482; salt oxhides, 1,180,275; dry horsehides, 88,557; salt horsehides, 83,825; live steers, 107,916; live sheep, 521,467.

According to the same authority the exports of the principal products from all ports for the year 1898 were as follows: Wheat, 682,242 tons (25,067,845 bushels of 60 pounds); wheat flour, 26,626 tons; maize, 758,236 tons (28,816,768 bushels of 58 pounds); linseed, 154,590 tons; wool, 514,230 bales (510,152,156 pounds); hides, 3,631,273 (all kinds); frozen wethers, 2,500,757; live steers, 140,073; live sheep, 562,114; hay, 771,134 bales.

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### GERMAN INTERESTS IN GUATEMALA.

The "Berichte über Handel und Industrie," volume 1, No. 2, published in Berlin by the German Government, contains some interesting facts in regard to German interests in Guatemala, of which the following is a translation in part:

The German plantations in Guatemala cover in all 2,725 square kilometers, or 2.14 per cent of the area of the Republic (including the

undeveloped Department of Petén, or 3.07 per cent without this). The percentage would be much higher if all the territory capable of cultivation, or where it has just been commenced, were taken into consideration. In fact, the most fertile and best parts of Guatemala are in German hands.

“The best districts for the cultivation of coffee and sugar—the most important products of Guatemala—are first on the Pacific side of the volcanic mountains which run parallel to the coast, from Salvador to Mexico, and which wall in the highlands of the interior of the country; and secondly on the Atlantic slope of these highlands, both having an altitude of from 400 to 1,500 meters above the sea. The hot districts along the coast are admirably adapted to the culture of caoutchouc, cacao, other tropical products, and timber; the high plateaus of the interior to the raising of grain, potatoes, fruit, and other European staples, but these districts, especially the first mentioned, have been but sparingly used for the purpose, and the above-mentioned products are not raised in sufficient quantities to supply the demands. The Atlantic and Pacific slopes are covered with German plantations. On the latter they form a continuous narrow chain almost throughout the length of the country. This region is the most flourishing in Guatemala.

“The four western Departments surpass the eastern in the intensity and age of their culture, and also in regard to roads and other evidences of advancement. The western districts of Costa Grande, Xolhnitz, Costa Euca, Costa Cucho, and Tumbador contain the best coffee and sugar plantations in Guatemala, many of which belong to Germans. Incidentally it may be stated that these plantations continue into the adjoining Mexican States, where analogous conditions exist, and which, economically speaking, belong to Guatemala, with which that region has better connections than with the other Mexican Commonwealths. Germans from Guatemala have, in late years, secured large tracts of land in this district. Near the boundary there are, at present, 15 German plantations valued at 15,000,000 *marks*, with an area of 65 square kilometers, producing 6,700 *centners* of coffee, valued at 400,000 *marks*. The port of this district is San Benito, where the steamships of the German “Kosmos” line make regular calls.

“On the Atlantic side, the picture of the German plantations presents a different aspect from that of the Pacific. While the mountain slopes on the Atlantic coast are adaptable to the working of plantations, it is only in later years that it has been undertaken to any great extent. In a relatively short time Germans have obtained large tracts of land. Nearly all the plantations lie in the Department of Verapaz, about a third of them being in German hands. The area of land owned by Germans on the Atlantic side of this Department is about



three-fifths of the total area of all the German plantations. On the other hand, the value of these plantations—about ten million *marks*—represents only 15 per cent of the total value of plantations owned by Germans in Guatemala; also the number of coffee trees in this district (3,700,000), and the yearly production of coffee (29,000 *centners*) equals only 15 per cent of the total crop. The explanation is that in this eastern district—which is indeed extensive, but obtained cheaply—only a small part is under cultivation.

“In the next few years the cultivation, production, and value of these plantations will materially increase, while the possibilities of those on the Pacific Coast are limited in this regard. At present, however, properties of 100 to 500 hectares on the Pacific side are valued at ten times as much as those in the district of Coban. The Coban coffee, on the other hand, commands as a rule better prices. Sugar is grown only in limited quantities. The total value of the German agricultural properties is estimated at 64,000,000 *marks*. As regards area, the district of Coban with 1,420 square kilometers is most important, but from the point of value the district of Guatemala holds the first place, the German properties here being worth, in round figures, 27,000,000 *marks*.

“With a good average harvest the German plantations will produce about 200,000 *centners* of hulled coffee—that is, about one-third of the total production of Guatemala and 1.3 per cent of the world's production. The number of coffee trees on the German properties is 17,700,000. Both of these figures will show an important increase during the next few years, on account of the rapidity with which the Verapaz district is being opened up. The quality of the coffee is good, the prices varying in 1897 between 50 and 118 *marks* per *centner*, according to grade. The average price for Coban coffee was about 80 *marks*, for other Guatemalan coffee 60 *marks*, while Santos (Brazil) coffee brought only 35 *marks* per *centner*.

“The sugar production on the German plantations was in all 125,000 *centners*—74,000 white and 51,000 brown. The latter, called *panela*, is of a lower grade, and is used by the Indians. Formerly all the sugar was consumed in the country itself, and it was only in 1898 that about 20 per cent of the crop was exported to San Francisco. In connection with the production of sugar a brandy is made, which is used chiefly by the Indians. In consequence of increased production in the past few years, the price of sugar fell from 25 to 12 *pesos* per *centner*. The crop from the German plantations was valued at 1,500,000 *pesos*, of which about 250,000 *pesos* represented brown sugar (*panela*), a total, in round figures, of 3,000,000 *marks*.

“Cattle are raised on a small number of the plantations, but only for market, dairies being rarely found. In the lowlands caoutchouc and cacao are planted, and wheat is grown in the highlands; timber is also

brought to market. Several plantations have gristmills, which are quite profitable. Every plantation has enough corn, bananas, and live stock (cattle, horses, mules, hogs, and poultry) to supply its own necessities. The total value of all productions on the German plantations is estimated at about 15,000,000 *marks*. The parcels of land not under cultivation are generally covered by dense tropical forest growths, most of which are virgin. On the Atlantic side these forests occupy by far the greater part of the plantation, and on the Pacific side often more than one-half is wooded. Only in the intensely cultivated western district have the forests become perceptibly smaller.

“The profits during the past ten years have been generally good. For instance, one plantation, owned by a stock company, has paid a dividend of 20 per cent until recently, when the profits have decreased somewhat. The reason for this has been the general depression throughout the country on account of the silver question, the financial and political situation, and the general decline in the prices of sugar and coffee. Notwithstanding this, however, sugar, at the price of 12 *pesos* per *centner*, yields a clear profit of 6 *pesos*, and Guatemala coffee, on account of its superior quality, has not suffered such a decline in value as has been the case with the middle grades of the Brazilian article. It may be expected, therefore, that the plantations, with rational management, will continue to be profitable. Perhaps later it will be necessary to look to the production of other articles, among which, in addition to caoutchouc and cacao, tobacco may be considered as the most likely to be successful.

“There are 167 German agricultural properties. They each belong either to one or a combination of several individuals, and in some instances a number of plantations together form a common property. In all, 150 persons are interested as owners. The area belonging to one owner or group of owners varies from 537 square kilometers to one-half a square kilometer, the values ranging between 10,000 and 5,000,000 *marks*. The yearly production of coffee varies from almost nothing to 19,000 *centners*, of and sugar from 1,000 to 22,000 *centners*.

“The size of the various properties gives to nearly all of them the character of agricultural undertakings of magnitude. There are only ten which have an area less than 200 hectares. Everywhere the work is carried on on a large scale, while elsewhere, especially in Brazil, the German colonists till the farm, assisted only by the members of their families, and where many of such settlements exist together, it becomes entirely a German community. In Guatemala, on the other hand, the German proprietor, or his representative, directs the work only. There are often two or more, and on the greatest of them six or eight, German employees, according to the size of the plantation. These

people, who later themselves often become owners, are managers, bookkeepers, physicians, machinists, and other technical assistants. Only the personnel engaged in the direction of the work is German. Spanish and Indian laborers do the work in the fields.

“There are two distinct kinds of Indian laborers. One class may be called day laborers, who live continuously in their primitive bamboo huts on the plantation. Their wants as to corn, wood, and bananas are supplied from the plantation, and they receive small wages. The other class, which may be designated ‘hired help,’ are temporarily employed for several months during the gathering of the crops, and come chiefly from the villages in the highlands. The planters secure these through agents, by advancing money to them. The Indian binds himself to work off the debt during the harvest time, and may be compelled by police regulations to do so. In the meanwhile he obtains further advances, and thus becomes bound for the next season. The Indian is subjected to further coercion, in that if he does not show that he lives for a certain time each year upon a plantation, the Government drafts him for work on the public highways. This is necessary in order to compel the indolent and the paupers to do something for their own existence. Once on a plantation, the Indian is not a bad worker. With the increase in the number of the plantations, there is already a complaint of lack of labor. Machinery of primitive as well as the most improved patterns is found on nearly all of the plantations.

“The climate, on account of the high altitude of most of the plantations, is quite endurable. The country has varied mountain formations, and rich vegetation of great scenic beauty. The roads are bad. With the exception of mule paths, they are simply primitive country roads, passable for two-wheeled vehicles only. High grades and rivers offer serious barriers to transportation. Many plantations, however, enjoy railroad facilities, through the Central Railway from San José to Guatemala City, and its branches, as well as through other lines. The residences of the owners are nearly always located near the buildings which contain the machinery and drying apparatus, and are for the most part modest frame houses. The public safety is, generally speaking, well guarded. It is of course important to live in harmony with the local authorities, upon whom the planter is dependent in many ways.

“The trade and industry of Germany enjoys great advantages owing to the fact that so many of the plantations are in the hands of Germans. The German planter buys what he needs in Germany. German manufactures thus become staple in the country, and articles such as agricultural implements and machinery, electric-lighting apparatus, bridge material, medicines, sacks, etc., all come from Germany. For example, one of the largest plantations in one year imported 64,500

*marks'* worth of German goods, and 20,000 *marks'* worth of goods made elsewhere, but all purchased through a German house in Hamburg. Another plantation recently bought sugar machinery in Germany to the value of 360,000 *marks*. These importations were generally made direct, the local German merchants having no connection with the transactions.

"The same is the case with the export of coffee from the German plantations, which is mainly sent to Germany. In 1896 the coffee export was as follows: To Germany, 46,268,078 pounds; United States, 11,926,467 pounds; Great Britain, 10,332,847 pounds. German railroads and German steamships reap considerable benefit from this business.

#### CAPITAL AND TRADE.

"The German trade in Guatemala is carried on principally through German houses established here. Much, however, as has been stated, is done by the owners of plantations with Germany direct. The number of German firms is 50; several have branches in different towns, which brings the total number up to 68, distributed throughout the country. In Guatemala City there are 28; Quezaltenango, 12; Retalhulen, 5, and Coban, 4. The other 19 are located in 16 different towns. The united capital of the 50 firms amounts to about 25,000,000 *marks*. Further, they enjoy open credit amounting to 30,000,000 *marks*. Only a few of the firms own their own business houses, the others using rented buildings, so that the value of city property owned by Germans is small.

"A majority of the firms, viz, 32, nearly all small, do an import business solely. The others both import and export. It is safe to say that there is no house but what imports at least one-half of its goods, some from two-thirds to three-fourths, and others their total supply, from Germany. Every endeavor is now made to introduce articles from the old home, which may be had there just as cheaply, and are frequently better and cheaper than those procured elsewhere. In many instances the effort goes further, and goods are brought from Germany which, in some cases, are more expensive and of higher grade. German goods are often thus preferred as against those which might be obtained in other countries more advantageously as far as quality and price are concerned. The principal imports from Germany are ironware, woolens, cottons, silks, beverages, drugs, luxuries, leather goods, clocks and watches, preserves, etc. The total value of imports in 1896 amounted to over nine million *pesos*, as follows:

"From the United States, 3,172,896; Great Britain, 2,164,491; Germany, 2,012,269; France, 1,196,849.

"Of the articles imported from Germany the values in *pesos* of the following may be mentioned: Cotton, 416,845; beer, 51,285; glass and

porcelain, 58,137; iron goods, 116,908; woollens, 186,810; railroad and telegraph material, 163,960; manufactured goods, 152,102; silks, 32,104; drugs and medicines, 34,107; leather goods, 34,216, and preserves, 43,208.

“The purchase of goods is generally effected through commission houses at Hamburg and Bremen. Several of the larger firms have their own establishments in Germany as well as in Guatemala. In time the same system, which has been carried on so successfully in Brazil, will probably be inaugurated, so that the partners of many firms will, after having reached a certain age, return to Germany to use their experience and knowledge as buyers for their houses in Guatemala, and they will in turn be succeeded there by younger men, thus forming a continuous link between Germany and her interests abroad.

“With the exception of a few of the smaller concerns, the German houses do both a wholesale and retail business, having as customers the local stores. The latter until recently were accorded extensive credits, a practice which resulted in considerable loss. It has already been stated that in most instances the planters supply their wants direct, and in like manner, even to a greater degree, the coffee is exported direct. Only twelve German firms are engaged in exporting, and each carries on an import, commission, and banking business.

“The initiatory steps toward establishing German trade with Guatemala were taken some forty years ago by Hamburg and Bremen merchants, and they are to-day largely interested in it. The trade assumed large dimensions some fifteen or twenty years ago, so that now the Germans hold relatively as important a place in trade as in planting in Guatemala. In agricultural undertakings the only competition which the Germans have comes from the natives. In trade, on the other hand, they have to meet foreigners, and especially North Americans, in the race for business.

“In the imports to Guatemala, Germany and Great Britain hold second place as against the United States, which, however, sends principally articles of nutriment, such as cereals, flour, potatoes, and corn. The preponderance of the exports is to Germany.

Fifteen German mercantile firms are at the same time owners of plantations. The employees of all the houses are German subjects.

#### TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

“German capital is largely interested in three transportation companies, whose stockholders and managers are almost entirely German.

The ‘Campania de Agencias del Norte y Ferrocarril Verapaz’ is a corporation which was created about three years ago through the consolidation of the newly formed Verapaz Railway Company with the river transportation company ‘Agencias del Norte.’ The latter

has for a long period carried on a regular service of towboats from Livingston, on the Atlantic coast, where it has many warehouses and docks, through the 'Golfo Dulce' and the adjacent lake, and the Rio Polochic as far as Panzos and return. This is the only access to the extensive territory of Northern Guatemala, especially to the Department of Verapaz and its plantations. It is intended that in connection herewith the Verapaz Railway shall facilitate the communication with the district. The narrow-gauge (915 mm.) Verapaz Railroad appears to be well built. The steel rails, ties, bridges, and other material came from Germany; the rolling stock from the United States. The road for the most part skirts the properties of the Germans. The extension to Coban is very much desired, but a grade of 1,000 meters presents a great difficulty. It seems possible, however, to construct an electric road with ease.

"The substitution of a railway for the bad roads, which in the rainy season are almost impassable even for mules, especially through the Polochic Valley, above all would serve German interests. All the imported goods are consigned either to the four German houses in Coban, to their agencies, or direct to the planters. The exported coffee comes almost solely from the latter, since they raise 75 per cent of the 60,000 *centners*, the estimated crop of the Verapaz district. In 1897 the company carried 55,000 *centners* of coffee and 26,000 *centners* of imported goods, all of which belonged to Germans. The continually increasing cultivation of the plantations will proportionately enlarge this business. That the undertaking will also be advantageous to German shipping has already been referred to.

"The Hamburg-American line has by contract obligated itself for a period of three years to have one of its steamers call monthly at Livingston, and during the coffee harvest two steamers each month, in all eighteen steamers per year. This apparently displaces the Atlas line (English), and the total coffee export from the Verapaz district to Germany and England will henceforth be carried in German bottoms. The company is registered in Guatemala, and the stockholders are almost all Germans—chiefly planters and merchants of Verapaz—and the management is also in German hands. The Government pays a subsidy; guaranteed from the customs receipts, on goods imported via Livingston, to the amount of three *pesos* per *centner*. In 1896 a dividend of 8 per cent was declared, but in 1897 the results, owing to the economical and political crisis, were unsatisfactory.

"The management of the 'Compania Anonima del Ferrocarril de Ocos' is German, and the road itself was built of material imported from Germany. It serves for the exportation of coffee from the extreme western districts, and passes along the forest-covered coast line to the foot of the mountains, which are dotted with German plantations. The company has ample facilities for loading and unloading

at Ocos. During the first harvest it handled 100,000 *centners* of coffee, and its prosperity seems assured.

"Only one of the principal stockholders of the 'Ferrocaril del Occidente' is German, who is at the same time general director. The company owns the road between Champerico, San Felipe, and Molo, as well as the harbor facilities at the former place. The road transports goods chiefly for the German plantations and business houses of the western district, and obtains its supplies, such as rails, bridges, etc., from Germany.

#### OTHER GERMAN INTERESTS.

"Industrial enterprises in Guatemala are not numerous. Of German undertakings of this character, except the gristmills before referred to, there is only one of great importance, namely, the 'Empresa Electrica de Guatemala,' which is, however, registered as a Guatemalan institution. This company exploits the water power of the falls of Palin, lighting by electricity the streets and houses of Guatemala City and its neighborhood within a distance of 40 kilometers, furnishing also power for small industries. The great length of transmission of the power, the climatic conditions, and other circumstances were at first somewhat unfavorable. The machinery was obtained in Germany, and the technical employees are Germans. The company's 4-per-cent bond issue of nominally £1,500,000 is mostly held in Frankfort-on-the-Main and in Hamburg and Bremen.

"The participation of German capital in the six banking institutions of Guatemala was at the beginning of 1898 as follows: Value of shares owned by Germans—10 per cent of the total nominal value of all shares—1,600,000 *pesos*; nominal value of shares owned by nonresident Germans 670,000 *pesos*; market value on January 1, 1898, 800,000 *marks*. One-third of all the stock (one-third of a million *pesos*) of the 'Banco Americano de Guatemala' is owned by Germans, at the head of which is a German director. An important item is the enormous credit, which is conceded, almost solely by Hamburg and Bremen houses, to German as well as to native merchants and agriculturists. The extent of this credit is hard to determine. They are, as a rule, open credits, which vary in amounts at different times. As far as has been possible to ascertain, the credit to German merchants is 20,000,000 *marks*, to German planters 18,000,000 *marks*, and to native and other merchants and agriculturists 40,000,000 *marks*. The commercial credit is given partly in cash, partly in goods. The credit to agriculturists is given in the form of advances on crops, and the money thus obtained is really the working capital. The planter executes a mortgage for the security of his creditors.

"It is to be regretted that in late years the granting of credits on the part of Germans to natives, especially to agriculturists, has been too

extensive and without the exercise of due care. In the hope of obtaining good interest, credits have been almost forced upon them. The natives have been spoiled by this, and many led into undertakings for which they did not possess the requisite ability, so that the great crisis of 1897 brought to them financial disaster. The German creditors suffered losses, and in many instances were compelled to take over properties. This unwilling increase of German landed interests will, however, be valuable in the future, since by a rational working of the same satisfactory results may be expected. The amount of German capital invested in Guatemala is 183,500,000 *marks*.

“In the beginning of 1898 there were 900 German subjects residing in the Republic, who were for the most part merchants, clerks, agents, planters, overseers, a number of civil engineers, doctors, a few mechanics, machinists, and servants. There were no industrial nor agricultural laborers. Nearly all the German residents belong to the educated class, which fact increases their importance in the country. From what has been stated, the value of Guatemala as a market for German goods and as a field for investment of German capital will be well understood.”

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The Bureau of the American Republics reproduces the above extracts from the German report in conformity with its plan of presenting to manufacturers of the United States all obtainable facts in relation to trade possibilities in the countries of this hemisphere. It will be observed that the United States exports more to Guatemala than does either Great Britain or Germany, but chiefly agricultural products, which apparently find markets there without any appreciable effort. It would seem, therefore, reasonable to assume that with the adoption of practical methods, as outlined above, the manufacturers of the United States might also compete successfully for a goodly share of the trade.

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## MEXICAN TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

In a recent number of “*La Gaceta Comercial*,” of the city of Mexico, appears an editorial on the trade between Mexico and the United States, which is in part as follows:

“Many years ago, since the triumph of the Republic over the Empire, our neighbors on the north began to think of the development of their trade with us until they worked up a veritable agitation through the idea. The newspapers published theses and articles upon the subject; distinguished orators \* \* \* referred to it upon the lecture platform, and even from the Protestant pulpit \* \* \* called



attention toward 'the door that Mexico opened to Anglo-American producers.'

"But the truth is that, while our neighbors were *talking*, our country *acted*. They had the idea, but it seems that they did not know how to realize upon it. Once in a while a small excursion would come and visit Chapultepec, the museum, etc., and nothing further was heard of it. On one occasion a rachitic exhibition of American articles of mining was even made without any result whatever. The Government of the United States shared in the good wishes of its citizens, but took no step toward converting them into realities. Mexico, in the meantime, did what should have been done. From the time of JUÁREZ and LERDO she subsidized steamship lines, which at once began to increase trade between the two Republics on the Pacific and on the Gulf, as is evidenced by the Treasury reports of Señor ROMERO and the statistics issued by Señor GARCÍA CUBAS up to 1875.

"Subsequently, during the first administration of General DÍAZ, 'the railroad era' was inaugurated. This Republic, in order to attract the enterprising spirit of American and European capital to the construction of the great lines uniting our country with that of the North, granted liberal subsidies to the concessionaires of these lines, and of several others, almost all of whom were citizens of the United States. Our railroad system, which could not avoid seeking the markets of the North, necessarily came to be an extension of the railroad systems of that country, and our markets for this very reason were open to American commerce as our seaports have always been to that of Europe.

"It is the true 'policy of the open door,' and to it, put not only into practice but into *activity* by the Government of General DÍAZ, is due the development of trade between the United States and Mexico. The steamship lines supported by Mexico from New York, New Orleans, and Morgan City on the Atlantic, and some ports on the Pacific, commenced to open markets, and these opened, the railroads subsequently constructed through the action and the very liberal cooperation of this Republic completed the necessary work to the end that, our trade increasing, the northern industry could compete with the European in a fair struggle on our soil. All this *was our work*—that of the present Mexican Government.

"Clearly the intention of our Government was the development of *Mexico*, and the thought of the Americans who desired the increase of their trade with us, was *for their own benefit*; but this was a good business for both peoples, who, being neighbors, should have trade between them. Each while working for its own benefit of necessity labored likewise for the benefit of the other. What ought to be noted, however, is that the country which acted more *practically*, or in a more business-like way, in this connection was Mexico.

“We have gained an export trade to the United States which in the last fiscal year exceeded \$100,000,000 (\$103,553,000) and the United States, which thirty-three years ago did not export to Mexico more than a million dollars worth of products, now divides *in half* our total imports. During the last seven years the total imports of Mexico amounted to \$286,631,000, in round numbers, as follows: From Europe, \$142,518,000, and from the United States, \$144,113,000. The average for the seven years was: United States, in round numbers, \$20,573,000 per annum; Europe, \$20,259,000.

“As their determining cause, it is evident that these facts are due to the policy of our Government toward all nations, but with results particularly favorable to the United States owing to our immediate proximity.

“This, in our judgment, is one of the principal if not the foremost reason for the cordiality and even mutual affection which is noticeable in the relations of the two Governments. If we have in the United States our best market—our best consumer—the United States has in the resolutely progressive and liberal political economy of our Government an efficient collaborator of its own political economy, which necessarily leads to the great end of giving outlet to an alarming excess of production. Mr. THURBER stated before the Industrial Commission of the United States that that country has ‘a consuming power of 75,000,000 (of population) and a productive power of 150,000,000!’

“The great problem, then, the *problem of problems*, for the United States is to find an outlet to that excess of production which might otherwise overwhelm the economic forces of the country. So that wherever a considerable part of this excess of production shall find a consumptive demand, in that country the United States must see a true friend.

“But Mexico, which, in the service of its own interests, in fact also aids the United States and is of greater service as each day passes, owing to their unexampled development, is to the United States more than a friend. By reason of its situation, in the very nature of things, Mexico is in reality an associate of the United States, aiding that country at a cost to it of neither money nor care, since, as a cultured nation, jealous of its independence, Mexico can take care of herself and make progress without aid.

“But that which facts have revealed ought not to be forgotten: While our neighbors, who call themselves so *practical*, were *thinking* how to increase their trade with us, our Government furnished the means of increasing our own trade with them, and the consequent result is what we are contemplating \* \* .”

## FRENCH VIEW OF UNITED STATES-MEXICAN COMMERCE.

A recent French publication regarding the rapid growth of the trade between the United States and Mexico, is in part as follows:

“One is immediately struck on glancing at the import statistics of Mexico by the enormous preponderancy which the United States has in this commerce. While the sales of the three principal European nations, Germany, France, and England, amounted in 1897-98 to \$5,667,925 (silver), \$5,917,167, and \$9,211,221, respectively, the United States boasts of the colossal figure of \$24,164,687; more than the combined total of these three countries mentioned or 47.6 per cent of the total import trade for the fiscal year 1898-99, which reached \$50,759,421.

“The predominance of the United States is due not only to its immediate neighborhood, which allows the rapid filling of orders, decreasing the expenses and risks, affording a greater facility in exchange, nor to the production by the United States of special articles or products, such as cotton, mineral oils, timber, etc. It is especially due to the enterprising spirit of the Anglo-Saxon race, in the unprecedented efforts which it makes to conquer the Mexican markets, and to the keen, speculative qualities which Americans possess. For them no expense is superfluous when it is a question of business, and it is a common saying with them that it is necessary to know how to spend in order to know how to gain. They use newspaper advertisements, prospectuses, catalogues, as well as traveling men, and let nothing stand in the way of their success, and therefore they succeed.

“The principal article of importation of American origin is coal. The United States and England supply the coal used in Mexico. During the fiscal year 1897-98 they sold coal to the value of \$963,626, and in 1898-99 for \$1,258,297, representing about 500,000 tons. Colorado and Pennsylvania coal are principally exported here, this latter being considered of better quality. The Colorado coal is worth from \$12 to \$15 (silver) a ton and Pennsylvania coal from \$18 to \$20, according to quality. The demand, relatively very large, is still susceptible of being increased, in view of the intense industrial development of the country. However, the recent discoveries of coal deposits give rise to the belief that before long the importation of this article will decrease. The agents of the Southern Pacific Railway have found quite abundant anthracite deposits in the State of Sonora, about 100 miles west of the station of Ortezt, not far from Hermosillo, which the company intends to develop.

“The ‘Coal Trade Journal’ of August 23, 1899, reports that a syndicate of capitalists, headed by WILLIAM H. INGHAM, of Philadelphia,

has obtained a very important railroad concession on the Pacific coast, the first one to profit by the new railroad law of April 29, 1899. This railroad has for its object the exploitation of the deposits of Val San Marcial, about 100 miles from Guaymas. The Philadelphia syndicate is called 'Pacific Coast Coal Company,' and has purchased 30,000 acres of land.

"An English company has been formed, with a capital of £600,000, for working the deposits of the district of Acatlan, in the State of Puebla. Important deposits have also been found on the extension of the Gran Pacifico Railway from Mexico to Cuernavaca. It is probable that if the production of these mines, together with that of the mines of Coahuilo, meets the expectations of the engineers, it will deal a very heavy blow to the English and American importers. However, as the exploitation of these mines necessitates the construction of numerous railroads, the field will remain open for quite a while.

"Cotton is the next most important article in the American-Mexican trade, the demand being very great. However, in view of the possibility of establishing mills in the neighborhood of the waterfalls of the temperate regions, and the cheapness of hand labor, the time is not far distant when Mexico will change from importing to exporting cotton fabrics. In 1898 there were in Mexico 125 factories engaged in the cotton industry—spinning, weaving, and dyeing. These factories had 491,443 spindles, 14,759 looms, and 29 stamping machines; employed 23,731 workmen; consumed 13,797,130 kilograms of cotton; produced 965,711 kilograms of flax, 5,376,882 pieces of *varas* (32 *varas* equal 26.82 meters), valued at \$14,963,284. However, up to the present time these factories have only produced a coarse grade of goods, the ordinary 'Manta' cotton cloth, indianas, and some ordinary calicoes; not yet having attempted muslins, colored stuffs, and fine calicoes. The prosperous state of the country demands these articles, and this explains the increased demand for better qualities.

"The inaccessibility of the forests which cover the slopes of the Sierra Madre, the impossibility of transporting the heavy pieces over roads which are in reality only mule tracks, the absence of navigable rivers, explain the important place which the importation of lumber holds in the trade between these two countries. In 1898-99 the imports arose to \$775,367. The mines use large quantities of lumber, besides what is required for a great number of bridges, railroad culverts, stations, and houses, Texas pine being used chiefly.

"The rails sold to Mexico by the United States amounted to \$539,154 last year. The railroad companies are mostly in the hands of Americans, and therefore the contractors send their orders to the United States. It is true that there are already foundries in the Republic at Aguascalientes and Chihuahua. A company with a capital of \$10,000,000 is to erect at Monterey a foundry for working the ores

of the Milmo mines, four miles from Las Golondrinas station, 100 miles north of Monterey, on the line of the Mexican Central Railroad. But it will be a considerable time yet before this foundry will be able to meet the demands of the country, and a vast field will still remain open to the foreign producers.

“The imports of carriages, wagons, and their parts amount to the sum of \$450,709. The greater part of these are light carriages, buggies, tilburies, and phaetons of American make. These are built very high on the wheels, to permit the fording of streams in a country where bridges are almost completely unknown. A good carriage for two horses costs from \$900 to \$1,000, Mexican currency, while victorias, French coupés, and landaus are scarce and sell for much more. The vehicles for transportation are also of American make, the Studebakers and Peter Schutter & Co., of Chicago, doing a good business. Their wagons are sold according to the capacity, varying from \$500 to \$1,200, and are generally very strong and satisfactory. Competition on railway coaches is almost impossible. The American car starts from the Pullman factories at Chicago, going away to Oaxaca without a change.

“Electric apparatus is imported to a value of \$438,829, mostly from the United States, which even sends its manufactures to France.

“The imports of sewing machines increased \$197,797 in 1898, and in 1899 the sales amounted to \$301,671. The principal house represented is the Singer Manufacturing Company, the principal agency of the Republic being at Mexico City, but the house is also represented in all the capitals of the States. The machines are mostly sold on monthly payments of \$5 each. If two months' payments remain unpaid the machine is retaken by the company. The price of these machines varies from \$50 to \$225.

“The imports of agricultural machinery rose from \$130,883 in 1898 to \$230,236 in 1899. The principal machines imported are barrows, reapers, ‘scarifiers,’ plows, hoes, seeders, and threshers. These were almost entirely from the United States.

“The importation of shoes from the United States has grown to enormous proportions, and threatens to reduce the local industry to almost nothing, and this in spite of the heavy duties which are levied on these articles. Americans are making unprecedented efforts in all parts of the world to conquer the markets, and mean to become the leaders for elegance, quality, and price. They already make very fine and good shoes, and are very proud of exporting large quantities of these articles to Europe. Even at Paris they last year sold shoes to the value of \$30,000. It can be said that here they are the masters, and the houses of Cahn, Nichlesburg & Co., of San Francisco; Flarsheim & Co., of Chicago; Douglas & Son, of Chicago; Wertheimer, Brown & Co., of St. Louis, do an enormous business. In 1898-99 \$223,000 worth

of shoes were imported. They are worth from \$18 to \$60, Mexican currency, per dozen. A good pair of men's shoes retail for from \$8 to \$12, women's from \$6 to \$10, and children's from \$2 to \$5."

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## THE BANANA PLANT.

The following article, from the pen of M. J. DE LOVERDO, is taken from "El Progress de Mexico," of February 28, 1900:

"Before the arrival of the Spaniards the Mexicans and Peruvians in great part lived on the fruit of the banana tree. In the climate of those countries the reproductive power of that tree is such that were authoritative testimony wanting it would be declared fabulous. Even to-day the banana, or plantain, constitutes in some parts of Mexico and Peru an article of prime importance for the subsistence of man. The reason for this is that one hectare of banana trees can feed more than 150 men, while the same area planted in wheat would barely provide food for 6 individuals. The rapid growth of this tree is no less notable. In the same space and under similar conditions of cultivation its production is forty times greater than that of potatoes and one hundred times more than that of wheat. Thus, says HUMBOLDT in his New Spain, nothing claims the attention of a European recently arrived in the torrid zone more than the lands cultivated around a hut.

"It is sugar above all that gives to the fruit of the banana its nutritive quality. It contains 72 per cent of water, 2.14 per cent of nitrogenous matter, and almost 22 per cent of saccharine substances. Were the crystallization of this sugar practically possible, the banana would furnish the sugar factories a raw material superior to that of the sugar cane or to that of the beet.

"The physiognomy of the tree producing this vegetable 'manna' is well known to all those who have traveled in hot lands. In those regions the banana tree is cultivated in the open air. Because of its singular aspect and its immense leaves this tree no less claims the attention of those who visit the great European hot houses. Its immense fruit, sprouting from the upper part of the stem, is used as a sign by the big grocers of Europe.

"The banana only has true agricultural importance in the regions near the equator which have a fertile and fresh soil, and a hot, uniform, and moist climate where there are neither great droughts nor strong winds. Here the banana is reproduced by suckers which are taken from the mother plant and are set out carefully at a distance of 3 or 4 meters from each other. Moreover, as it grows it is the center of radiation for new suckers, each of which will yield a smaller bunch than the principal tree.

"In countries where there are sufficient rains the preservation of the banana plantations does not demand more than some weeding and the suppression of a part of its suckers. As the silkworm dies after spinning its cocoon, so the banana tree dies after producing its fruit. Because of this peculiarity the custom is to cut down the stem of the banana to gather its product. This is done when the fruit which is ripened in the house, and, above all, in the dark, is still green and hard. In its green state the fruit is much employed, as its flavor harmonizes very well with that of cooked meat. With respect to ripe plantains, one of the best methods of preparing them is to fry them in a pan with melted grease. According to experts this process should be followed to prepare plantains for shipment to Europe.

"For the export trade prepared bananas are subjected to two methods. One consists in slicing the green bananas, drying them by a fire, and making a meal which the English call *coquintay*. The other method somewhat resembles the manner of drying figs. The ripe bananas are collected, peeled, cut lengthwise, cooked and first dried by a fire and afterwards by the sun. The outside thus becomes black and assumes a peculiar odor which is like that of smoked ham. The dry banana—*plátano pasado* of the Mexicans, *piere* of the French colonies—is a very wholesome food of an agreeable taste. The Tubai *piere* has a well-established world-wide reputation.

"It is a remarkable fact that the banana, whose study is so easy, is among the least-analyzed plants, and is above all among the least known. The species has innumerable varieties, but they are much dispersed and have a uniform appearance to a superficial observer.

"For such as seek quality in the product there is but one banana to plant—the *radjah*—the fruit of which differs from all others, as the *montreuil* peach differs from the fruit of the mulberry tree. When one only cares for quantity or a large harvest is desired, recourse may be had (in hot lands naturally) either to the Pernambuco banana or to a Tahitian variety, the *Purohini*. The bunch of this variety acquires such a size that, according to a military authority, two men can hardly carry it. In Malasia are to be found varieties of an extraordinary precocity, the fruit ripening at the end of four or five months. Such are the *Kanaya Sussu*, the *Kanaya Kilsjil*, etc. In England, where it is endeavored to raise bananas, as well as pine apples, in hot houses, recourse is had to the Chinese variety (*Musa Sinensis*), which, low and squat, yields exquisite fruit.

"Banana trees, because of their appearance and the spread of their leaves, are much employed as ornamental plants in parks and gardens; but they should be placed in localities unexposed to the wind, which would destroy their leaves and thus cause them to lose all their beauty. The species which lend themselves most to decoration in cold climates come either from Abyssinia, like the 'Bruce banana,' from Cochinchina,

China, the *Zebrodo* banana from Java, the leaves of which are speckled with gray spots, or the red (*Musa coccinea*) and the rose bananas (*Musa rosacea*).

“In gardens the banana plant is multiplied from the seed. Plants appearing in the month of January are sometimes fit for ornamental purposes in June; nevertheless they will not develop all their beautiful appearance until the second year. In winter the plants in pots are kept in a cool or temperately warm greenhouse.

“The banana plant, which feeds man, which decorates his garden, and whose leaves at times cover the roof of his dwelling, may also clothe him. Everybody has heard speak of the Manila hemp, or *abaca*, which is simply the textile product of a variety of banana tree whose height reaches seven meters. The leaf stalks sheathing the trunk, by means of a soaking process, produce fiber that at times has the luster of silk. Of this fiber a solid, light, and dry cloth is made which absorbs humidity but little and is a poor heat conductor. With the outer fibers, which are harsher, cloths are made which in Africa are known by the name of *koffo*. One foot of this stock produces 12 ounces of this class of fiber, and one workman can prepare 25 kilos a day.

“The textile banana plant, differing from the other varieties, does not seek moist places, but needs a cold climate. Ignorance of these conditions has caused the failure of many attempts to acclimate it in some of the French colonies; hence I have thought it useful to write this article. I trust that the advice it contains will serve colonists undertaking the culture of the banana or plantain to secure better results than their predecessors.”

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## HONORARY CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

The Bureau of the American Republics is pleased to announce that since the last issue of the MONTHLY BULLETIN, four new honorary corresponding members have been added to the list.

Señor DON MANUEL ARAGÓN will represent the Republic of Costa Rica at the capital, San José. Señor ARAGÓN is particularly well qualified to perform the duties which he has so kindly undertaken. During the International American Conference of 1889-1890, this gentleman represented Costa Rica as its delegate, and won the esteem of all of his colleagues for the admirable and earnest manner in which he espoused the cause of his country, and the many important questions discussed before that body. He is at present the director of the National Bureau of Statistics at San José.

In the person of Señor DON ALEJANDRO GARLAND, who has consented to act as the correspondent for the Bureau at Lima, Peru, is to



be found a gentleman of eminent ability as a statistician and writer. He was a delegate to the International Commercial Congress at Philadelphia in 1899, and is thoroughly equipped to perform the duties of a correspondent.

Señor Dr. Don ESTANISLAO S. ZEBALLOS, who will represent the Bureau at Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, will need barely any introduction to the readers of the MONTHLY BULLETIN, as he will be remembered as the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of his Government to the United States in 1892-93. This gentleman was born on July 27, 1854, at El Rosario, being descended from a prominent family figuring among the founders of the city. He received his degree of doctor of laws in 1874. He has been Minister of Foreign Relations on two occasions, twice president of the Chamber of Deputies, for ten years a National Deputy for the Provinces of Buenos Ayres, Santa Fé, and the Federal capital. He was the founder of the "Sociedad Científica Argentina," and of the "Instituta Geográfico Argentino," and a member of the Royal Academy of the Language and of History of Madrid, of the Academy of Sciences of Philadelphia, of various European societies, and officer of the French Academy, etc.

Señor ZEBALLOS, besides being an able lawyer and distinguished statesman, is a journalist and litterateur of merit. He has written three small novels depicting the life of the native tribes, in imitation of J. FENIMORE COOPER. He has also published a work entitled "Descripción Amena de la República Argentina" (Interesting Description of the Argentine Republic). During his residence in Washington as a diplomat he wrote "La Concurrencia Universal y la Agricultura en Ambas Americas" (Universal Competition and Agriculture in both Americas). His books of travel "Conquista de Quince Mil Leguas" (Conquest of Fifteen Thousand Leagues) and "Viaje al País de los Auracanes" (Trip to the Country of the Auracanos). Señor ZEBALLOS is also a professor of private international law in the University of Buenos Ayres, and in April, 1898, presided over the Latin American Scientific Congress which was held in Buenos Ayres.

Señor General Don M. V. BALLIVIÁN, who will act as Correspondent in La Paz, Bolivia, is one of the most distinguished men in South America, at present occupying the position of Director of the National Bureau of Immigration, Statistics, and Geographical Propaganda. He is a writer of great merit, having published a number of works upon geography, history, and cognate subjects, and is an Honorary Corresponding Member of the Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain. He is an indefatigable worker in the field of statistics, and is deeply interested in the purposes for which the Bureau of the American Republics was founded. He will from time to time honor the Bureau with contributions from his pen.

## TRADE WITH SPANISH AMERICA.

The United States collector of customs at Eagle Pass is authority for the statement that the exports to Mexico from the former country for 1899 were 450 per cent greater than for the previous year. The increase has been mainly in agricultural implements and machinery, with dry goods, clothing, and textile fabrics following. The imports from Mexico show an increase of 10 per cent over 1898. The average business per month in the last-named year was \$100,000, while in 1899 the value of exports ran as high as \$850,000 for the same length of time, and for no month did business drop lower than \$400,000.

The Mexican Consul at Pascagoula, Mississippi, reports the exports to Mexico during the month of February as follows: To Laguna, lumber valued at \$1,046; to Progreso, lumber valued at \$3,495; to Veracruz, lumber valued at \$3,631; making a total of \$8,172.

The Mexican Consul at Nogales, Arizona, says the exports through that port to Mexico during the month of January, 1900, were valued at \$143,255, and that the imports from Mexico to the United States were valued at \$495,208.

The Consul-General of Mexico in San Francisco reports that during the month of January, 1900, the exports of United States merchandise shipped to Mexico through the port of San Francisco were valued at \$147,979, and that the foreign merchandise so shipped was valued at \$2,466. There were also shipped to Salvador 5,300, to Mexico 500, and to Hongkong 71,640 Mexican silver dollars, making a total of 77,440. The imports from Mexico during the same month were: Metals, \$331,732; merchandise, \$55,555; a total of \$387,287.

The Mexican Consul at San Diego, California, announces the exports to Mexico through his station during the month of January last to have been 6,136 packages, valued at \$8,888.75. The imports through this port destined for the United States for the same month were valued at \$18,467.

The Consul-General of Mexico at New York reports the imports from Mexico during the month of January, 1900, to have been the following: Henequén, 8,147 bales; coffee, 19,304 bags; hides, 2,382 bundles; loose hides, 5,947; ixtle, 2,337 bales; goatskins, 1,386 bales; deerskins, 296 bales; rubber, 171 packages; leaf tobacco, 185 bales; cigars, 117 boxes; broom root, 792 bales; chicle gum, 1,295 packages; fustic dyewood, 20,370 logs; Puebla onyx, 171 blocks; hair, 43 bales; lead, 74,770 bars; metals, 205 cases; ores, 39,602 packages; sarsaparilla, 295 bales; vanilla, 1 box; alligator skins, 48; heron plumes, 1 box; bones, 2,065 packages; honey, 138 barrels; cedar, 645 logs; mahogany, 2,538 logs; jalap, 3 bags; copper, 5,801 bars; horns, 25; emery stones, 1,191; licorice, 9,725 packages; cloth, 6,029 packages; opium, 140 packages.

During the month of January there were entered at the port of New York from Mexico 15 steamers carrying 206,174 packages, and during the same month there were cleared for Mexican ports 14 steamships carrying 109,074 packages.

The Consul of Nicaragua in Boston writes that during the month of January, 1900, only one vessel, a steamer of 2,287 tons burden, sailed from Boston for Nicaragua; this carried iron castings of the value of \$69.37 and shoes to the value of \$270.

The Consular Agent of Nicaragua at Mobile, Alabama, says that during the month of February, 1900, the exports to Nicaragua from Mobile consisted entirely of dry goods, valued at \$1,778.89.

The Consul-General of Bolivia at New York reports the exports to Bolivia during the month of February, 1900, as follows: Via Antofagasta, 748 packages, valued at \$13,713.60; via Tacna, 26 packages, valued at \$634.90; via Mollendo, 302 packages, valued at \$6,966.01; via Villa Bella, 299 packages, valued at \$4,451.85; via Puerto Suarez, 12 packages, valued at \$1,008; via Tarija, 252 packages, valued at \$7,466.71; a grand total of \$1,639 packages, valued at \$34,242.63.

The Consul-General of the Dominican Republic reports the imports of products of Santo Domingo into New York during the month of December, 1899, as valued at \$77,680, against \$32,062 for the same month of 1898. The imports of Dominican products into New York during the month of January, 1900, were valued at \$121,680, as against \$154,106 for the same month of 1899. During the year 1899 there were cleared for Santo Domingan ports from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore 46 steamship and 29 sailing vessels, of a total tonnage of 48,448 tons, carrying merchandise to the value of \$1,812,348.27.

The Consul-General of Venezuela at New York reports the exports to Venezuela for the month of January, 1900, as follows: Packages, 31,827, weighing 1,781,921.85 kilos and valued at \$205,105.04, as against 43,502 packages weighing 2,383,266.05 kilos, valued at \$249,680.68, for the month of January, 1899, showing a decrease of \$44,575.64 in January, 1900. The exports to Venezuela for the month of February, 1900, were as follows: Packages, 35,655, weighing 2,151,436.61 kilos, valued at \$562,904.36, as against 39,537 packages, weighing 2,359,329.22 kilos, valued at \$226,907.69, for the same month of 1899, showing \$335,996.67 net increase for February, 1900.

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## METEOROLOGICAL WORK AT AREQUIPA, PERU.

A short time ago, Professor SOLON J. BAILEY, M. A., director of the Arequipa station of Harvard University, delivered a lecture, under the auspices of the Brooklyn (New York) Institute of Arts and Bull. No. 3—7

Sciences, on the Meteorological Work of the Harvard College Observatory at Arequipa, Peru, and at the chain of meteorological stations crossing the Andes.

The lecturer said in part that Harvard College Observatory was founded in 1840 and received its first endowment of importance in 1843. In 1887 the "Boyden fund" of more than \$200,000 was received for the special purpose of carrying on astronomical research at such an altitude as to be free, as far as possible, from the atmospheric difficulties encountered at low elevations. In carrying out the terms of this bequest Professor BAILEY was himself sent in 1889 to make a study of the conditions in Peru which should lead to the selection of the best site for a permanent station. Two years were passed in this study and at the same time a large amount of astronomical and meteorological work was accomplished.

For more than a year a provisional station was occupied on a mountain at an altitude of 6,500 feet and about 25 miles east of Lima. This mountain became known as Mount Harvard. Here Professor BAILEY, with his wife, child, and two assistants, lived, with no neighbors nearer than 8 miles. Later various other localities were visited in Peru, and some in Chile. As a result of these investigations Arequipa was selected as the site of the permanent station.

The chief astronomical instruments now in use there are described as the great "Bruce" photographic telescope, and the "Boyden" refractor, with other smaller but valuable apparatus. The main lines of work are photometric and photographic, although much has been done in visual observation of the planets and the double and variable stars. Auxiliary meteorological stations have been maintained for several years in a line extending from Mollendo, on the Pacific, across the Andes to Santa Ana, on the Upper Amazon.

In 1893 the meteorological station was established on the summit of the nearly extinct volcano "El Misti," at an elevation of 19,200 feet, and is by far the highest scientific station in the world. Professor BAILEY said that it is hoped that the discussions of the observations made at this unique system of stations may lead to very important results. Among the interesting new discoveries, he mentioned several spectroscopic binaries by Professor PICKERING and other members of the observatory, from an examination of the photographs taken. One of the other direct results of the establishment of this station was the discovery, by Mrs. FLEMING, of a large number of new variable stars, their finding being due, in some part, to peculiarities of the spectrum at this height. The great height and clearness of atmosphere assisted Professor BAILEY greatly in the discovery of about 500 new variable stars in dense globular clusters.

Publication has been made of part of the discoveries and the results of the work at Arequipa station in an article entitled "Peruvian

Meteorology, 1888-1890," in the "Annual of the Astronomical Observatory of Harvard College," 1899, but necessarily some time must elapse before all are ready for the public.

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## BOOK NOTICES.

Books and pamphlets sent to the Bureau of the American Republics, and containing subject-matter bearing upon the countries of the International Union of American Republics, will be treated under this caption in the Monthly Bulletin.

The "Century" for March, 1900, contains an article by Dr. FREDERICK A. COOK, of the Belgian Antarctic Expedition, entitled "The Giant Indians of Tierra del Fuego," the text being illustrated with pictures drawn from photographs taken by himself. The Fuegians have been reported from time to time since the country was first sighted and named by MAGELLAN in 1520, but to-day they remain still almost unknown, says the writer. In connection with the voyage of the *Belgica*, the members of this expedition had unusual opportunities for studying their wild life and their weather-beaten land. "They are not, as is generally supposed, a homogeneous tribe, but three distinct races, with different languages, different appearances, different habits and homes. \* \* \* The Onas have thus far evaded all efforts at civilization, have refused missionaries, and have to the present time, with good reason, distrusted white men. In consequence they have remained absolutely unknown. \* \* \* As a tribe they have never been united in a common interest, nor have they ever been led by any one great chief. They have always been divided into small clans under leaders with limited powers, who have waged constant warfare among themselves. To the present they have their worst enemies among their own people, but now that sheep farmers and gold diggers want their country they are uniting to fight their common enemy."

Physically the Onas are giants. They are not, however, 7 or 8 feet in height, as the early explorers reported their neighbors and nearest relatives, the Patagonians, to be. Their average height is close to 6 feet, a few attain 6 feet 6 inches, and a few are under 6 feet. The women are not so tall, but they are more corpulent. There is, perhaps, no race in the world with a more perfect physical development. This is partly due to the topography of their country and to the distribution of game, which makes long marches constantly necessary.

It is observed that the mental equipment of the Ona is by no means equal to his splendid physical development. He understands very well the few arts of the chase which he finds necessary to maintain a

food supply. "His game in the past has been easily gotten; his needs have been few, which fact accounts for the lack of inventive skill portrayed in the instruments of the chase. The home life, the house, the clothing—everything portrays this lack of progressive skill. Instead of the children being well dressed and well cared for, as is the rule among savage races, they are mostly naked, poorly fed, badly trained, and altogether neglected, not because of a lack of parental love, but because of the mental lethargy of the people. It is the same as to shelter and garments. They have abundant material to make good tents and warm, storm-proof houses, but they simply bunch up a few branches and throw to the windward a few skins, and then shiver, complaining of their miserable existence."

"México: Su Evolución Social" (Mexico: Its Social Evolution) is the title of a great work which is now being issued in parts by the publishing firm of J. Balleescá y Compañía, Sucesores, of the City of Mexico. The publishers state in their announcement that the work will not be a treatise on Mexican sociology, in the strict sense of the word, but will present such facts as should be utilized in a proper study of the whole Mexican fabric, political, social, industrial, etc. It is intended to give a full knowledge of the Mexico of to-day in foreign countries, and to do this there will be three editions of the work—Spanish, English, and French.

There will be two volumes, each divided into several parts (to be issued separately), in this publication, which will be sold by subscription. The contents will be as follows:

Vol. I—Part 1: The Territory of Mexico and its Inhabitants, by the engineer Don AUGUSTÍN ARAGÓN. Part 2: Political History, by the Licentiate Don JUSTO SIERRA. Part 3: National Constitution; The States of the Federation; International Relations, by Judge Don JULIO ZÁRATE. Part 4: The Municipalities; Penal Establishments, by the Licentiate Don MIGUEL MACEDO. Part 5: Legal Evolution, by the Licentiate Don EMILIO PARDO, Jr. Part 6: The National Army, by General Don BERNARDO REYES. Part 7: National Education; Educational Legislation and Statistics; State Instruction in all its Branches; Private Schools; Educational Congresses; Scholastic Publications; Libraries; Museums; The Press as an Educator, by the Licentiate EXEQUIEL A. CHÁVEZ. Part 8: Science in Mexico; The Savants; Elements of Scientific Works; Protection of the State and of Private Parties; Mexico's Contribution to Scientific Advancement; Academies; Institutes; Reviews; Scientific Bodies, by Dr. Don PORFIRIO PARRA. Part 9: National Literature, by the Licentiate Don MANUEL SÁNCHEZ MARMOL.

Vol. II—Part 1: Agricultural Evolution, by the Licentiate Don GENARO RAIGOSA. Part 2: Mining Evolution, by the Licentiate Don GILBERTO CRESPO MARTÍNEZ. Part 3: Industrial Evolution, by the

Licentiate Don EDUARDO ZÁRATE. Parts 4 and 5: Public Works and National and International Communications, by the Licentiate Don PABLO MACEDO. Parts 6 and 7: Commerce and Public Resources, by the Licentiate Don PABLO MACEDO. Part 8: History of the Public Treasury, by the Licentiate Don PABLO MACEDO. Conclusion, by the Licentiate Don JUSTO SERRA.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN is indebted to Mr. D. BANKHARDT, editor of the "Hacendado Mexicano" for a copy of "The Hacendado Mexicano's Mexican Sugar Report, 1899-1900." The pamphlet is a most useful and interesting work on the sugar industry of Mexico. The text is in Spanish and English, and is replete with statistics showing the quantity of tons of sugar cane raised to the acre in different States of the Republic, the amount of juice expressed from a ton of cane, and the quantity of refined sugar in the same. A valuable and important feature, never heretofore published, is an official list of all the sugar-cane planters in Mexico and of the leading planters in Central America. There is also a list of all those engaged in the making of sugar, with the name, district, State, and distance of said plantation from the city of Mexico, with a description of the class of machinery used and the amount of sugar and molasses made on each plantation. According to the work, the total amount of refined sugar produced in the Republic during the year 1898-99 was 50,670,576 kilograms. The number of sugar plantations, according to the official list in the different States, is as follows: Morelos, 30; Michoacán, 31; Colima, 4; Puebla, 19, exclusive of many small properties where only *panela* (common brown sugar) is made; Veracruz, 144; Tamaulipas, 132; Nuevo León, 21; Oaxaca, 126; Guerrero, 66; México, 13; Campeche, 37; Yucatán, 18; Tabasco, 47; Sinaloa, 6 (besides 329 small properties where *panela* is made for local consumption or for making *aguardiente*); Jalisco, 232; and Queretaro, 1. The pamphlet further states that the total production of sugar, including the *piloncillo* (raw or unrefined sugar), was about 150,000 tons; but at least one-half of the latter and of the molasses is distilled into spirits. The book will be found of great value to those interested in sugar, whether as planters or handlers of sugar machinery.

"Alfabetos Adornados, Aplicaciones Decorativas del Arte Antiguo" (Ornamented Alphabets, Decorative Applications of Ancient Art) is the title of the second edition of a fine album of 82 finely reproduced plates which has just been issued in the City of Mexico, and which is the compilation of the intelligent and industrious Mexican archæologist, Dr. ANTONIO PEÑAFIEL. The plates have been reproduced by the photogravure and phototype processes, the first twenty of which are reproductions of alphabets fancifully decorated with Grecian fret-work copied from native monuments.

The 50 plates following are reproductions of two beautiful alphabets, tastefully and elegantly decorated, the first with human figures, which give a complete idea of the different articles composing the ancient raiment of the Mexican and Tlaxcalteca warriors, priests, kings, and noble dames; the second alphabet being decorated with panoplies of escutcheons, arms, flags, musical instruments, and religious emblems. The two alphabets thus give a very complete idea of the native costumes, arms, etc., prior to the Spanish conquest. The last 12 plates faithfully reproduce the characteristic fretwork used decoratively by the Aztecs, or Mexicans, copied from their own monuments, and that employed by the Zapotecas in the secular mosaic at Mitla, in Oaxaca. As an exposition of the beautiful and exquisite combination of the ancient Mexican and Zapotecas art this work stands unrivaled.

The Department of Agriculture has issued a comprehensive pamphlet on the distribution of the agricultural exports of the United States for the five years 1894 to 1898. The value of the annual average for this period was \$663,536,201, or 69.58 per cent of all the domestic exports of the country. Of the annual average, 54.62 per cent went to the United Kingdom of Great Britain; 13.01 per cent to Germany; 6.63 per cent to France; 4.34 per cent to the Netherlands; 3.58 per cent to Belgium; 3.47 per cent to Canada; 2.15 per cent to Italy, and 1.47 per cent to Spain. No other country took as much as 1 per cent of the total. During the five years in comparison the agricultural exports of the United States increased to Great Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Japan, Italy, Denmark, and British Africa.

The gain was the greatest to the United Kingdom, but the gains to Belgium and Holland were very marked, and were important in the cases of France and Germany. Canada took an average of \$23,000,000 worth of agricultural products each year for the period named, the West Indies a little less than \$17,000,000 worth a year, while South America's annual average was \$11,389,761, of which more than one-half went to Brazil.

“El Correo de la Tarde,” a newspaper of Mazatlán, Mexico, has published some interesting particulars about the last two letters written by Archduke MAXIMILIAN, the late Emperor of Mexico. These documents are now in the hands of Señor MANUEL C. ROMERO, a resident of Medaño. They were written by the unfortunate sovereign just previous to his execution at Querétaro, June 19, 1867. They are dated June 18, 1867, and were addressed to FRANCIS JOSEPH, the Emperor of Austria-Hungary. MAXIMILIAN advised the Emperor not to pay the drafts for 200,000 *pesos*, drawn in favor of Colonels MIGUEL PALACIO and RICARDO VILLANUEVA, to each of whom 100,000 *pesos* had been offered, provided they would facilitate the flight of



MAXIMILIAN, but they had not fulfilled their promises. The letters were extracted from the portfolio of the Emperor after his execution by Captain TORRES, who was then second sergeant in the Twenty-fifth Battalion, and who was charged to shoot the *coup de grace* into the ear of MAXIMILIAN. Señor ROMERO kept for a time a small establishment at Guaymas and became the friend of TORRES, who presented the letters to him.

Through the courtesy of Messrs. SILVER, BURDETTE & Co., of New York, Boston, and Chicago, the library of this Bureau has received a valuable accession in the form of a set of forty volumes of school text-books. They embrace the complete course in normal instruction, including series of supplementary readers, normal course in reading, advanced arithmetic, studies in English grammar, first steps in the study of United States history, and a complete history of the country by WILLIAM A. MOWRY, and further geographical readers in seven volumes. There are also text-books on chemistry, physiology, and hygiene. A most interesting compilation is the "Songs of the Nation," which is a complete collection of the patriotic and national songs (edited by CHARLES W. JOHNSON). There are also some Spanish text-books for primary instruction. The whole collection is an index to the present methods of teaching in the United States, and it is understood that text-books on the same lines are to be issued by the house in the Spanish language for use in the island possessions of this country.

"Education in the United States" is the title of a two-volume work which has been planned and edited by Professor NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER as an important feature of the educational exhibit at the Paris Exposition. The work consists of 19 monographs, each prepared by a leading specialist, which, taken together, give a complete view of the present educational activity of the United States. It is proposed to present an edition of handsomely bound and numbered copies of the work to the leading Governments, public libraries, and educational institutions of the world. The public generally will have an opportunity to purchase copies at a moderate price. Among the contributors to this work are Dr. WILLIAM T. HARRIS, United States Commissioner of Education; ANDREW FLEMING WEST, professor of Latin in Princeton University; Dr. ANDREW SLOAN DRAPER, president of the University of Illinois; T. C. MENDENHALL, president of the Technological Institute of Worcester, Massachusetts, and BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, principal of the Tuskegee Institute.

The "Nouveau Monde," in its issue of March 3, 1900, states that a new book on modern Mexico and on the work accomplished by the administration of General DIAZ, entitled "El Progreso de Mexico," is to appear shortly. The collaboration is expected of Messrs. PORFIRIO PARRA, PEÑA IDIAQUEZ, LARA HARDO, CARLOS DÍAZ DUFOO, LUIZ G.

URBINA, AMADO NERVO, CARLOS PEREIRA, JUAN SÁNCHEZ AZCONA, EUGENIO SÁNCHEZ, and many others whose names are sufficient to guarantee its success.

The work is dedicated to the President of the Republic. It will be published at Paris in the French and Spanish languages and will contain numerous articles relating to the financial, commercial, industrial, and mining institutions, etc., of the country, which will render it of interest to the business man and the public official, as well as to the writer or publicist.

The curriculum of the Commercial High School at Leipsic, Germany, for the six months' term commencing on April 18, 1900, contains a large number of lectures upon most important subjects. Among others, Professor HASSE will speak upon the "German Colonial Policy;" Doctor SALOMAN upon the "Comparative History of the Colonial Policies of the Several European States." The students of the Commercial High School are also admitted to the University in that city. Here practical work will be done, under the supervision of competent teachers; besides this, there will be a course in languages, with special reference to mercantile correspondence in French, English, Spanish, Italian, and Russian, as well as in stenography and type-writing. The libraries of the University and the Municipal Chamber of Commerce will be placed at the disposal of the students.

MR. A. R. SPOFFORD, Assistant Librarian of the Congressional Library of the United States, has prefaced a new work to be issued by Putnam's Sons, entitled "A Book for All Readers." The subject-matter will be devoted principally to the selection, care, and management of public and private libraries. A part of the volume is given to library science proper, and the remainder to such topics as the choice of books, the art of reading, rare books, periodical and pamphlet literature, book buying in America and Europe, the art of book-binding, the history of libraries, the enemies of books, the humors of the library, the faculty of memory—in short, to subjects of commanding interest, not only to all literary persons and lovers of good books, but also to the general reader.

The diamond trade, or rather the production of diamonds in Brazil, which has decreased considerably since the discovery of the great diamond mines in Kimberly, is beginning to be revived since the opening of the Transvaal War. Regarding these mines, Mr. A. DE JAEGER has recently published in Europe an interesting monograph. In this he shows that as early as 1880, the State of Minas Geraes, the principal producer of the precious stones in that country, yielded only 5,000 carats. That amount decreased, in 1883, to only a few hundred carats. Since 1727, the first year in which Brazilian diamonds were to be found on the market, they have continued on sale up to the present time, the

total value of these stones being estimated by the writer at 500,000,000 *francs*. That sum represents about 12,000,000 carats of diamonds, or a weight of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tons.

The "Standard Guide to the City of Mexico and Vicinity," compiled by ROBERT S. BARRETT, Modern Mexico Publishing Company, City of Mexico, 1900. This book of about 100 pages has been prepared for the purpose of providing the tourist with practical information concerning and intelligent description of the country. The author makes little claim to originality, and has gathered his material from various sources. The illustrations are remarkably good, among them being portraits of President DIAZ, General POWELL CLAYTON, United States Ambassador, and others, and are taken from "Modern Mexico," of St. Louis, Mo.

"La Guia Ilustrada de Nicaragua" (Illustrated Guide to Nicaragua) is the title of a handsome volume of 226 pages, which has just seen the light in the Republic of Nicaragua, and is the work of Señor Don H. FALCHINELLI GRAZIOSI. The volume will serve as a *vade mecum* for foreigners who are unacquainted with Nicaragua, its immense resources, its government, laws, inhabitants, and other features. The illustrations are all excellent, and convey a most exact idea of the leading men and institutions and picturesque scenery.

The Advance Sheets of the United States Consular Reports, issued February 27, 1900, are mainly devoted to the cassareep in Latin America. This product is obtained from the mandioca. There are two plants of this kind known, one bitter and the other sweet. The natives of Guatemala make bread and starch from the mandioca. In Honduras they employ it only to extract starch. It is indubitable that the food extracted from this root is highly nutritive, and may well compete with potatoes as an alimentary substance.

The geographical work upon which Professors GREGORIO M. SOLIS and MANUEL E. ROSAS have been engaged for some time past, under instructions from the Governor of the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and data for which has been furnished by the Department of Interior of the State, is now nearing completion. All that remains to be done is to incorporate into the work the details relative to the Districts of Iturbide and Guerrero.

The "Successful American" is a magazine which began its career with the January, 1900, number. It is published at the Press Biographical Company, 13 Park Row, New York, and consists of pictures and sketches of men who have achieved distinction in the political and business world.

"El Iris del Hogar," of Matamoros, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, is the latest addition to the journals of that progressive town.

## LIBRARY ACCESSIONS DURING FEBRUARY, 1900.

## BY GIFT.

- Cuevas, Benjamin. Ensayo Botanico escrito por el naturalista Benjamin Cuevas . . . Mérida de Yucatán, Imp. de R. Caballero, 1894. 51 pp. 12°.
- "El Comercio." (Perú) Almanaque de "El Comercio" para 1900. Lima, Imp. de "El Comercio" [1900]. 216 pp. 8°.
- Field Columbian Museum. Annual report of the Director, Chicago. Field Col. Museum, 1899. 425 pp. 8°.
- Ireland, Alleyne. The Anglo-Boer Conflict . . . Boston, Small, Maynard & Co., 1900. 134 pp. 12°.
- Kramer, Pedro. La Industria en Bolivia, 1ª Parte. La Paz, Taller Tipo-Litográfico, 1899. Map. 306 pp. 8°.
- Manzano, Theodomiro. Geografía del Estado de Hidalgo. México, Eduardo Dublan, 1897. 77 pp. 12°.
- Peraza, D. Joaquín Castillo. Artículos Sueltos de D. Joaquín Castillo Peraza. Mérida, Tip. de G. Canto, 1899. 276 pp. 12°.
- Ponce, Ricardo Mendez. Geografía del Estado de Puebla. Méjico, Antonio V. Arroyo, 1891. 82 pp. 12°.

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

## ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

- Anuario de la dirección general de estadística. Buenos Ayres, Compañía Sud Americana, 1899. 428 pp. 8°.

## BELGIUM.

- Recueil consulaire. . . . Vol. 105. Bruxelles, P. Weissenbuch, 1899. 473 pp. 8°.

## BRAZIL.

- Tarifas das Alfandegas. Rio de Janeiro, Imp. Nacional, 1897. 130 pp. 4°.

## CHILE.

- Oficina de Estadística. Sinopsis estadística y jeográfica de Chile, 1898. Valparaiso, Gmo. Helfman, 1899. 218 pp. 8°.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

- Accounts relating to trade and navigation. January, 1900. London, Wyman & Sons, 1900. 103 pp. 8°.
- Canada. Geological Survey, annual report (new series), 1897. Ottawa, S. E. Dawson, 1899. 232, xxii, pp. 8°.

## HONDURAS.

- Informe de la Corte Suprema de Justicia. . . . Tegucigalpa, Tip. Nacional, 1900. 24 pp. 4°.

## MEXICO.

- Boletín de Estadística Fiscal. Mexico, Imp. del Timbre, 1899. 965, 108 pp. 8°.
- Reseña del Estado de Hidalgo, . . . 1884-1885. Pachuca, Gobierno del Estado, 1884. 110 pp. 8°.
- Reseña económica del Estado de Tabasco. México, Tip. Secretaría de Fomento 1899. 168 pp. 8°.

## UNITED STATES.

- Department of Agriculture. Irrigation in Rocky Mountain States. J. C. Ulrich. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. 64 pp. 8°.
- . Our trade with Japan, China, and Hongkong. J. H. Hitchcock. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 168 pp. 8°.
- . Results of work of Division of Entomology. L. O. Howard. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 109 pp. 8°.
- . Rice culture in the United States. S. A. Knapp. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 28 pp. 8°.
- . Russian cereals. M. A. Carleton. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 42 pp. 8°.
- Department of Justice. Annual report of the Attorney-General. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. 431 pp. 8°.
- Navy Department. Notes on naval progress. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. 326 pp. 8°.
- . Office of Naval Intelligence. Squadron of Admiral Cervera. Victor M. Concas y Palau. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 117 pp. 8°.
- Patent Office. List of patentees and inventions. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 227 pp. 8°.
- Philadelphia Commercial Museum. Asphaltum. Scientific Department. Bulletin No. 2. Philadelphia, Commercial Museums, 1900. 19 pp. 8°.
- Treasury Department. Annual report of the Commissioner of Navigation. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. 405 pp. 8°.
- Treasury Department. Annual report of the Comptroller of the Currency. 1899. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. 1279 pp. 8°.
- . Annual report of the Light-House Board, 1899. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. 220 pp. 8°.
- . Annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury, 1899. Washington.
- . Tariff of 1897 on imports under U. S. war revenue act June 13, 1898. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. 179 pp. 8°.
- Department of State. Consular Reports, No. 233, Vol. 62. February, 1900. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 270 pp. 8°.
- . Exports declared for the United States. . . . 1899. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 61 pp. 8°.
- . Foreign trade in coal tar and by-products. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. 226 pp. 8°.

## URUGUAY.

- Leyes sobre construcción del Puerto de Montevideo. Montevideo: Imp. de "La Nacion," 1899. 84 pp. 8°.

## BY PURCHASE.

- Bulnes, Francisco: El porvenir de los Naciones Hispánico-Americanas. México: Imp. de Mariano Nava, 1899. 282 pp. 8°.
- Curtis, William Elroy: Venezuela. A Land where it's always summer. New York: Harper Bros., 1896. 315 pp. 8°.
- Mexican Sugar Report. 1899-1900. México: Imp. "El Hacendado Mexicano," (1900). 81, 16 pp. 8°.
- Mulhall, M. G.: Dictionary of statistics, revised to November, 1898. London: Routledge & Sons, 1897. 282 pp. 8°.
- Rothwell, Richard P.: The Mineral Industry. 1898. New York: Scientific Publishing Co., 1899. 982 pp. 8°.

## PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS PERMANENTLY FILED IN THE LIBRARY.

Persons interested in the commercial and general news of foreign countries will find the following among the official and periodical publications on the permanent files in the Library of the Bureau of the American Republics:

- American Review of Reviews. New York. Monthly.
- Anales del Departamento de Ganadería y Agricultura. Montevideo. Monthly.
- Anglo (The) American Magazine. New York and London. Monthly.
- Argentinisches Wochenblatt. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.
- Board of Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.
- Boletín de Agricultura, Minería é Industrias. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- Boletín Postal de la Administración General de Correos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Lima. Lima, Peru.
- Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Monthly.
- Boletín Demográfico Argentino. Buenos Ayres. Monthly.
- Boletín del Instituto Científico y Literario. Toluca, Mexico.
- Boletín de la Red Meteorológica y Revista Científica. Toluca, Mexico.
- Boletín Telegráfico. City of Mexico, Mexico.
- Bollettino del Ministro degli Affari Esteri. Rome, Italy.
- British Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.
- Bulletin of American Geographical Society. New York City.
- Bulletin of the Commercial Museum. Brussels, Belgium. Weekly.
- Bulletin of the Free Museum of Science and Arts. Philadelphia. Quarterly.
- Century Magazine. New York City. Monthly.
- Chilean Times. Santiago de Chile. Semiweekly.
- Coal Trade Journal. New York City. Weekly.
- Deutsche Kolonialzeitung. Berlin. Weekly.
- Diario Oficial. Bogotá, Colombia. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. Managua, Nicaragua. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. City of Mexico. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. (Laws.) City of Mexico. Daily.
- Diario Oficial de la Republica de Chile. Santiago. Daily.
- Diario del Salvador. San Salvador, Salvador. Daily.
- Diplomatic and Consular Reports. London, England.
- El Agricultor Mexicano. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- El Comercio. La Paz, Bolivia.
- El Comercio. Lima, Peru.
- El Comercio. Managua, Nicaragua. Daily.
- El Correo Nacional. Bogotá, Colombia.
- El Economista. Lima, Peru. Weekly.
- El Economista Mexicano. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.
- El Estado de Colima. Colima, Mexico. Weekly.
- El Guatemalteco. Guatemala, Guatemala. Weekly.
- El Mensajero. Santo Domingo. Three times a month.
- El Progreso de México. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.
- El Republicano. Aguascalientes, Mexico. Weekly.
- El Siglo. Montevideo, Uruguay. Daily.

Export Implement Age. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Monthly.  
 Feilden's Magazine. London, England. Monthly.  
 Field Columbian Museum Publications. Chicago, Illinois.  
 Freir's Colonial and Foreign Register. London. Quarterly.  
 Gaceta Municipal. Guayaquil, Ecuador. Weekly.  
 Gaceta Oficial. Caracas, Venezuela. Daily.  
 Gaceta Oficial. Santo Domingo. Weekly.  
 Geographical Journal. London, England. Monthly.  
 Handel's Kammer zur Hanover. Hanover, Germany.  
 Japan-American Commercial Journal. Tokio, Japan. Monthly.  
 Jornal do Commercio. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Daily.  
 Journal of the Board of Agriculture. London, England. Quarterly.  
 La Escuela Cubana. Habana, Cuba. Weekly.  
 La Enseñanza. Asunción, Paraguay. Semimonthly.  
 La Gaceta. (Official.) Costa Rica. Daily.  
 La Gaceta. Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Weekly.  
 La Gaceta Commercial. City of Mexico, Mexico. Daily.  
 La Patria. León, Nicaragua.  
 La Plata Post. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.  
 La Plata Zeitung. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.  
 La Producción Argentina. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.  
 La Producción Nacional. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Semimonthly.  
 Lavoura (A). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.  
 Le Commerce Extérieur Argentin. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.  
 Le Nouveau Monde. Paris, France. Weekly.  
 Modern Machinery. Chicago, Illinois. Monthly.  
 Modern Mexico. St. Louis, Missouri, and City of Mexico, Mexico. Monthly.  
 Moniteur Officiel. Paris, France. Weekly.  
 Novedades (Las). New York City. Weekly.  
 Pan-American Magazine. Buffalo, New York. Monthly.  
 Petermann's Mitteilungen. Gotha, Germany. Monthly.  
 Rapports Commerciaux. Paris, France.  
 Resumen de la Importación y de la Exportación. City of Mexico, Mexico. Monthly.  
 Revista Brasileira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.  
 Revista de Ciencias. Lima, Peru.  
 Revista de la Instrucción Pública de Colombia. Bogotá, Colombia. Monthly.  
 Revista Económica y Financiera. La Paz, Bolivia. Monthly.  
 Revista del Faro. Habana, Cuba. Quarterly.  
 Revista del Instituto Paraguayo. Asunción, Paraguay. Monthly.  
 Revista Maritima Brasileira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.  
 Revue du Commerce Extérieur. Paris. Semimonthly.  
 Revue générale des Sciences. Paris, France. Semimonthly.  
 Revue Politique et Parlementaire. Paris. Monthly.  
 Semana Mercantil. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.  
 Südamerikanische Rundschau. Berlin, Germany. Monthly.  
 Tableaux Mensuels de Statistique Municipale de la Ville de Paris. Paris. Monthly.  
 Tenders and Contracts. London, England.  
 Thonindustrie Zeitung. Berlin, Germany.  
 Times (The). London, England. Daily.  
 Trade and Navigation Reports. (Official.) London. Monthly.  
 United States Consular Reports. Daily and monthly.  
 Venezuelan Herald. Caracas, Venezuela.

**ADDITIONS TO PERMANENT FILES IN FEBRUARY.**

- Boletín de Estadística. Mérida, Estado de Yucatán, México. Semimonthly.  
Chicago Record. Chicago, Ill. Daily.  
Commercial Intelligence. London, England. Weekly.  
India Rubber World. New York, N. Y. Monthly.  
La Nación. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Daily.  
Registro Oficial de la República del Ecuador. Quito, Ecuador. (Daily.)  
Review (The) of the River Plate. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.



# BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

## OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

VOL. VIII.

MARZO, 1900.

No. 3.

### EXPORTACIÓN DE LOCOMOTORAS AMERICANAS.

Según “El Economista.” de Lima, Perú, correspondiente al 20 de enero, y el hecho parece comprobado, la exportación de locomotoras americanas aumenta á pasos satisfactorios y su popularidad en el exterior se comprueba por el número creciente que de ellas se envía de este país. Durante los últimos doce años las exportaciones anuales han aumentada de 52 á 338. En las cifras á continuación aparece el número de locomotoras y su valor en cada uno de los años citados:

Año.	Número.	Valor.
1876 .....	52	\$333, 398
1878 .....	58	337, 245
1888 .....	56	401, 014
1889 .....	144	1, 227, 146
1890 .....	161	1, 280, 060
1891 .....	275	2, 424, 363
1892 .....	197	1, 717, 715
1893 .....	195	1, 794, 709
1894 .....	142	1, 028, 330
1895 .....	252	2, 397, 519
1896 .....	261	2, 512, 270
1897 .....	338	3, 220, 831

Á juzgar por las exportaciones del mes de enero próximo pasado, es de esperarse que la mayor cifra se obtendrá en el año económico de 1899-1900. Hasta el presente se han enviado ya cosa de 270 locomotoras al exterior.

### LA PRODUCCIÓN DE NARANJAS EN EL ESTADO DE CALIFORNIA.

En un artículo muy interesante sobre las naranjas de California, dice el “San Francisco Argonaut” que la producción llega á su mayor altura en el mes de enero. En dicho mes centenares de personas se

ocupan en recoger la cosecha, que millares de carros llevan á los mercados del este. Se dice que la producción de este año es la mayor de que hay recuerdo y la demanda y los precios los más altos. Se calcula que en la estación de 1899 á 1900 la producción será de 14,000 á 14,500 vagones de carga, contra 13,000 en el año anterior.

En 1890 toda la producción del estado ascendió á 4,016 vagones de carga, pero el aumento ha continuado de día en día casi sin interrupción. Se calcula el valor de la cosecha de este año en \$4,600,000, de los cuales \$2,600,000 irán á las cajas de las compañías de transportación.

Aunque las naranjas fueron primitivamente cultivadas desde 1804 por los monjes de la Misión de San Gabriel, los naranjales actuales son de origen reciente. Los terrenos que se adaptan para este cultivo han aumentado en valor, y de \$30 por acre que costaban antes, han alcanzado un precio de \$600 por acre.

El periódico "Southern California Fruit Growers' Exchange" asegura que se va á hacer gran uso de un nuevo sistema de preparar las naranjas para el mercado. Se trata de fumigarlas por medio de ciertas clases de gases á fin de matar el *fungus* que produce la descomposición de la fruta. El método que se emplea para este fin no es conocido del público.

El inventor del sistema dice que la descomposición de las naranjas se debe á un *fungus* verde, mientras que en el caso de los limones hay dos, el verde y el negro. Este último no se destruye con el tratamiento indicado. Como ensayo, se enviaron algunos cargamentos en julio de 1899, de Los Angeles, California, á Kansas City, Missouri, y el resultado fué el siguiente: descomposición de la fruta no refrigerada ni sometida al tratamiento, 8.9 por ciento; refrigerada, 2 por ciento; fumigada, 1.8 por ciento. Se asegura que el costo del nuevo tratamiento es mucho menor que el de la refrigeración en tránsito, y se cree que este último método será abandonado casi por completo. Si el nuevo procedimiento da buenos resultados, el ahorro en los gastos que ocasionan los cargamentos de naranjas será enorme. En la actualidad cuesta de \$80 á \$90 por la refrigeración de cada carro del punto de embarque á los mercados del este.

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## NUEVOS BUQUES DE VAPOR EN CONSTRUCCIÓN.

Como dice muy bien el "Scientific American" correspondiente á este mes, ha comenzado una nueva era en la construcción de buques de vapor, tanto en este país como en el extranjero, y el hecho de haberse retirado del tráfico una gran flota de vapores con el objeto de llevar soldados ingleses al Sur de África, parece demostrar que la cantidad de buques de vapor en el tráfico marítimo es insuficiente, cuando se presentan emergencias que pueden sobrevenir en cualquier época. No

solamente el tráfico de la costa del Pacífico sufrió por haberse tomado como transportes un número considerable de vapores á fin de conducir tropas y pertrechos de guerra á las islas Filipinas, sino que el servicio de pasajeros para la Exposición de París el verano próximo sufrirá más ó menos por falta de vapores.

Serán muy pocos, si es que hay algunos, los que se podrán fletar para llevar el extraordinario número de pasajeros, y algunos de los grandes transatlánticos estarán fuera de servicio. Seis de los vapores de la línea de Cunard y tres de la White Star, incluyendo el gran Majestic, están actualmente empleados por el Gobierno británico, y todos ellos figuran entre los más cómodos y espléndidos de los que navegan á través del Atlántico. Es dudoso que estos vapores puedan ser devueltos á las respectivas compañías en tiempo de tomar parte en el inmenso tráfico que ocasionará la Exposición de París.

Cuando llegue la primavera habrá varios transatlánticos nuevos terminados, lo que en parte compensará por la pérdida de los grandes vapores de las líneas inglesas. La Holland-American Line espera tener listo para entonces el Potsdam, soberbio buque de inmensas dimensiones. La línea francesa botará al agua tres nuevos vapores, iguales en todo á los mejores que la compañía tiene en el servicio transatlántico. Estos buques, que llevarán los nombres de La Savoie, La Lorraine y l'Aquitaine, formarán por sí solos una flota considerable.

Se están construyendo en este país muchos vapores, que estarán con eluidos dentro de uno ó dos años. Varios de ellos serán para el tráfico de la costa del Pacífico, lo cual prueba que las relaciones comerciales entre aquella parte de los Estados Unidos y los países orientales toman de día en día mayor incremento. Se cree que en el curso de cinco años habrá veinticinco vapores nuevos de gran porte haciendo la carrera entre la costa del Pacífico, la China, el Japón y las Filipinas.

Se asegura que todos los astilleros de los Estados Unidos, incluyendo los de los Grandes Lagos, tienen cuantos pedidos pueden llenar dentro de un año. El tráfico del mundo ha aumentado de tal suerte en los últimos tiempos, que los vapores que se dedican á él no son suficientes para satisfacer la inmensidad de ese comercio, y este hecho ha venido á hacerse más palpable por las condiciones que acarrea la guerra. Es claro que en la nueva era que ha comenzado, los Estados Unidos van á tomar una parte activa y que el por tan largo tiempo esperado renacimiento de las construcciones navales americanas ha llegado ya.

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## USO DE PETRÓLEO EN LAS LOCOMOTORAS.

Dice el Profesor T. G. MENDENHALL que la invención de la máquina de vapor ha hecho del carbón tal fuente de poder que ha colocado á la disposición del hombre una cantidad de fuerza motriz 50 por ciento

mayor que la que produce la fuerza muscular de la población entera de la tierra; pero que la producción de carbón no es ya suficiente; de donde resulta que es necesario buscar otra clase de combustible económico, ya sea natural ó artificial. En algunas partes de los Estados Unidos se emplea el petróleo crudo, pero su uso, tanto en este país como en Europa, no puede generalizarse por ser un artículo más costoso que el carbón.

El petróleo se emplea en las locomotoras en la parte meridional de California. El periódico "Modern Machinery," correspondiente á enero de 1900, describe el método empleado para quemar el petróleo en las cajas de fuego de las locomotoras. El combustible penetra en la forma de rocío, acompañado de cierta cantidad de aire ó vapor, y así se le quema. Generalmente es necesario proteger con ladrillos refractarios la superficie de las cajas de fuego junto al conducto por donde entra el aire ó el vapor, á causa del intenso calor que se produce quemando el petróleo de la manera indicada.

El Fitchburg Railroad ha adoptado una modificación de este sistema en orden á evitar, en cuanto sea posible, la acumulación de humo y gas en el túnel de Hoosac, que mide cerca de 5 millas de largo. Se ha pedido á los talleres de Baldwin un aparato en que se queme petróleo y que se pueda enganchar á cualquier locomotora. Dichos talleres construyeron uno que se ha ensayado con excelentes resultados.

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## CONDICIÓN DEL ALGODÓN EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Por muchos años la producción de algodón en los Estados Unidos ha sido enorme, y, en consecuencia, los precios han estado muy deprimidos, habiendo llegado á su más bajo nivel en 1897 y 1898. Ésto desalentó á los cultivadores, y el año pasado se redujo mucho la extensión de terreno dedicado á este cultivo. Tampoco la estación fué favorable para la cosecha. Además de esto, el aumento en la fabricación de géneros de algodón en este país, y especialmente el establecimiento de grandes fábricas en el sur, exigen que sea mayor la oferta de la materia prima para la industria nacional.

Mientras que por una parte la oferta es escasa, por otra el consumo de algodón en rama continúa en aumento, á medida que el tráfico en los productos de esta materia textil sigue prosperando. En vista de estos hechos, no es de sorprender que el algodón se venda actualmente á precios altos, y mientras no haya cambiado este estado de cosas, nada hay que pueda impedir que dichos precios se eleven más todavía. Esto no es obra de especuladores, sino de las condiciones que necesariamente acarrea la ley de oferta y la demanda.

Al comenzar la estación en que se exporta el algodón de este país, se creía en el extranjero que la cosecha había sido muy grande, á pesar del hecho de que el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos había dado un informe en que se manifestaba otra cosa. Dicha creencia dió por resultado que los extranjeros no quisieran comprar á los precios existentes, mientras que los fabricantes de los Estados Unidos, teniendo fe en lo expuesto por el mencionado Departamento, tomaron la mayor parte del algodón, lo cual colocó á estos últimos en una posición ventajosa sobre sus competidores.

El 1° de marzo de este año la cantidad de algodón en los depósitos de Liverpool era aproximadamente de 1,000,000 pacas menos que el 1° de marzo de 1899, mientras que la cantidad disponible en los Estados Unidos era solamente como de 150,000 pacas más que en el mismo período del año pasado. Se cree generalmente que dicho artículo está prácticamente agotado en las plantaciones y en los pequeños pueblos del interior del país. La cantidad de algodón disponible en el mundo entero el 1° de marzo de 1900 muestra una disminución de 1,457,000 pacas, comparada con la que existía el 1° de marzo de 1899.

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## INTRODUCCIÓN DE IPECACUANA DE COLOMBIA.

Como antes se ha manifestado en el BOLETÍN MENSUAL, la ipecacuana de Cartagena ha sido considerada como no oficial por las autoridades aduaneras de los Estados Unidos. Según una resolución reciente del Subsecretario SPAULDING, del Departamento de Hacienda, este producto debe ser juzgado en adelante según sus méritos solamente, es decir, como cualquier otra droga, y debe ser admitido.

Las secciones 2933 y 2935 de los Estatutos Revisados de los Estados Unidos disponen que las drogas importadas sean examinadas en cuanto á su calidad, pureza, etc., de conformidad con lo que establecen las farmacopeas y dispensatorios de los Estados Unidos, Edinburgo, Londres, Francia y Alemania; y las leyes y reglamentos dan al dueño ó consignatario el derecho de apelación cuando no esté satisfecho con lo que resuelva el aforador. Al presentarse la apelación se someterá la cuestión á un químico analítico competente, habiéndose depositado en poder de la administrador de aduana una suma suficiente para hacer frente á los gastos de reexamen y análisis. La disminución en la cosecha de ipecacuana del Brasil ha sido motivo para que se preste más atención al producto de Cartagena, que se ha encontrado ser de mejor calidad de lo que se suponía.

## EL EDIFICIO DEL GOBIERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EN LA EXPOSICIÓN DE PARÍS.

En el periódico "Magazine of Art" correspondiente al mes de febrero próximo pasado, Mr. CHARLES DE KAY describe el pabellón erigido por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos en la Exposición de París.

El edificio es uno de tantos construidos por los varios gobiernos que van á tomar parte en aquel certamen, y está situado sobre una de las riberas del Sena, lo mismo que los otros. El problema que tuvieron que resolver los arquitectos americanos fué utilizar de la mejor manera posible el espacio que les fué otorgado. Además, tenían que dar al pabellón cierto aspecto que indicara claramente que pertenecía á los Estados Unidos y no á otra nación.

En primer lugar, los arquitectos tomaron en consideración el hecho de que la invención del ascensor para pasajeros ha modificado por completo la arquitectura en las grandes ciudades de la Unión, y desde luego se comprendió que el edificio debía ser de gran altura. Ya la Exposición Universal de Chicago de 1893 había establecido á este respecto cierto estilo de construcciones que no podía estar fuera del lugar en una ciudad como París, donde aun se siente la influencia de la época napoleónica. El resultado de todo esto ha sido un edificio que, aunque remotamente, recuerda por una parte al capitolio de Wáshington y por la otra á los Inválidos de París. En lo general el pabellón de los Estados Unidos se parece un tanto á los edificios erigidos por varios estados de la Unión en la Exposición Universal de Chicago.

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## DESTRUCCIÓN DE LAS RATAS.

El Marine-Hospital Service del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha dirigido una circular á los capitanes de buque, directores de dique, etc., recomendándoles que tengan cuidado con las ratas, muertas ó vivas, en los buques que lleguen del Portugal, el Brasil, la República Argentina y especialmente Honolulu y los puertos asiáticos. Se recomienda particularmente que se haga un examen científico de los cuerpos de las ratas muertas, á fin de determinar si murieron de peste bubónica. Se advierte á toda clase de personas que no toquen con las manos desnudas los cuerpos de las ratas muertas, sino que hagan uso de tenazas ó instrumentos parecidos, y se recomienda que los lugares donde se encuentren estos animales sean desinfectados con una solución de ácido fénico ó cloruro de mercurio, y á falta de éstos, con agua hirviendo. Los cuerpos de estos animales han de ser quemados.

Ha motivado esta circular el hecho reconocido de que las ratas son

en gran parte responsables por la propagación de la peste bubónica, y que la llevan á grandes distancias. No solamente la peste bubónica ha sido llevada por las ratas de un puerto á otro, sino también el cólera y otras enfermedades contagiosas. Los Gobiernos de la India, de la China y del Japón ofrecen un premio por los cuerpos de ratas que hayan sido tomadas á bordo de buques que arriben á sus puertos. En la página 818 del *BOLETÍN MENSUAL*, correspondiente al mes de diciembre, se da cuenta de una cruzada contra las ratas que se verificó en la ciudad de Santos, estado de São Paulo, Brasil.

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## CAMBIO DE GIROS POSTALES CON MÉXICO.

El primer informe relativo al cambio de giros postales internacionales entre los Estados Unidos y México fué recibido en el Departamento de Correos. Al referirse á la nueva convención, el Superintendente METCALF, de la División de Giros Postales, dijo lo siguiente: “El primer informe es satisfactorio é indica los grandes beneficios que los comerciantes de los Estados Unidos recibirán de este sistema. El primer día se vendieron como 30 giros postales. Desde hace diez años estamos interesados en esta convención, y es un asunto que debe llamar la atención de una gran parte de los hombres de negocios de las grandes ciudades. He mantenido una correspondencia considerable con una de las principales casas de Chicago sobre este particular, y se me ha pedido permiso para imprimir 5,000 formas en blanco de giros postales para ser usadas en el tráfico con México. Espero recibir solicitudes semejantes de otras grandes casas del oeste. Todo indica que nuestros comerciantes se aprovecharán del nuevo sistema y que dará los mejores resultados para ambos países.”

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## “SALTBUSH” PARA LOS TERRENOS ÁRIDOS.

Esta planta pertenece á la familia de las salsoláceas y se adopta muy bien á los terrenos áridos y alcalinos, donde no puede existir otra vegetación. Es un excelente alimento para carneros, caballos, cerdos, etc., y contiene casi las mismas propiedades nutritivas que la alfalfa, de la cual parece destinada á ser rival. El “saltbush” es una planta muy adecuada para engordar animales.

Muchas variedades de esta planta se cultivan actualmente en los Estados Unidos, pero las que han dado mejores resultados son las de Australia, que fueron introducidas en California por VON MUELLER en 1881. Debido á la flexibilidad del tallo, el “saltbush” de Australia puede manejarse como la alfalfa. Las otras clases solo son propias

para pacer. Los carneros gustan mucho del "saltbush," y en opinión de VON MUELLER muchas de las buenas cualidades de la lana de Australia se debe á la abundancia de dicha planta en aquel país. Una cosecha de "saltbush" de Australia produce de 15 á 20 toneladas de forraje verde por acre, ó sean de 3 á 5 toneladas de forraje seco.

Hay en los Estados Unidos grandes extensiones de tierra alcalina donde no pueden cultivarse cereales ó hierbas de ninguna clase. El "saltbush" crece bien en algunas de estas tierras y produce cantidades considerables de excelente forraje. Terrenos impregnados de substancias alcalinas pueden hacerse adaptables á las cosechas ordinarias sembrando en ellos "saltbush," que remueve una gran cantidad de dichas substancias.

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## CUBA.

### MOVIMIENTO DE POBLACIÓN EN LA HABANA.

El Comandante JOHN G. DAVIS, jefe de sanidad de la Habana, ha remitido al Departamento de la Guerra algunos datos interesantes sobre el movimiento de población en la ciudad de la Habana, comprendiendo los nacimientos, matrimonios y defunciones ocurridos en los diez años terminados en 31 de diciembre próximo pasado. Hubo en dicho período 40,509 nacimientos, 9,596 matrimonios y 101,932 defunciones, ó sea un exceso de éstas sobre los nacimientos de 61,423.

Los años de mayor mortalidad fueron los de 1898, 1897 y 1896 en el orden mencionado. Del número total de defunciones, 5,413 fueron de fiebre amarilla y el resto de otras enfermedades. De los 40,509 nacimientos, 34,498 fueron blancos, 3,763 mulatos y 2,248 negros. Fueron legítimos 26,489 é ilegítimos 14,020. Los matrimonios contraídos en igual período fueron 9,068 entre blancos, 394 entre mulatos y 134 entre negros. El número de matrimonios incluye 146 americanos. Durante el año de 1899, no incluyendo tropas, entraron por el puerto de la Habana 46,082 personas, de las cuales 22,301 procedían de los Estados Unidos, 16,260 de España y 7,521 de otros países. En el mismo período y con las mismas excepciones, salieron del puerto de la Habana 37,226 personas: 21,090 para los Estados Unidos, 12,352 para España y 3,784 para otros países, dejando un excedente de 8,856.

### VALOR DE LAS IMPORTACIONES EN LA HABANA.

Según un informe del Departamento de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos que lleva la fecha de 1° de marzo de 1900, el valor total de las mercancías importadas en la Habana durante el año civil de 1899 fué de \$48,920,774, de cuya cantidad \$20,687,140 vinieron de los Estados Unidos, \$7,005,419 de la Gran Bretaña, \$1,576,639 de Alemania, \$9,377,095 de España, y \$10,274,481 de otros países.



**ENTRADAS DE ADUANAS EN ENERO DE 1900.**

Según el informe recibido por el Departamento de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos, las entradas totales de la isla de Cuba en el mes de enero de este año ascendieron á \$1,511,094.37. Las entradas de aduana fueron de \$1,062,622.64, ó sea un aumento, en comparación con enero de 1899, de \$448,471.73. La recaudación por puertos fué como sigue: Baracoa, \$1,724.59; Batabanó, \$533.79; Cienfuegos, \$109,330.74; Cárdenas, \$35,350.28; Caibarien, \$14,069.46; Guantánamo, \$12,310.89; Gibara, \$10,774.31; Habana, \$1,152,313.43; Manzanillo, \$14,380.84; Matanzas, \$32,336.54; Nuevitas, \$12,526.70; Sagua la Grande, \$8,111.42; Santa Cruz, \$1,269.21; Santiago, \$98,291.38; Trinidad, \$3,389.14; Tunas, \$201.65.

**ORGANIZACIÓN DE COMPAÑÍAS ELÉCTRICAS.**

La Puerto Príncipe Tramway Company fué organizada últimamente en Trenton, New Jersey, con un capital de \$200,000. Esta compañía se propone construir un ferrocarril urbano en Puerto Príncipe, así como también obras hídráulicas y establecimientos eléctricos, de gas y de alumbrado, para todo lo cual dice que ha obtenido las concesiones necesarias. También ha sido organizada la Puerto Príncipe Electric Company. La mencionada ciudad es la más antigua de la isla, pero carece de todas las mejoras modernas, con excepción de un establecimiento de luz eléctrica. Una gran parte de los habitantes se dedica á la agricultura y á la cría de ganado vacuno. El hecho de que la ciudad queda á 54 millas del puerto más inmediato, Nuevitas, ha impedido en gran parte su desarrollo, á pesar de que el ferrocarril que une á las dos ciudades fué el primero que se construyó en la isla.

**SOLICITUD PARA EL AUMENTO DE LOS DERECHOS DE IMPORTACIÓN.**

La Society of Planters de Cuba ha resuelto presentar una solicitud al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos para que eleve los derechos de importación, con pocas excepciones, en orden á aumentar las rentas de la isla sin recurrir á los impuestos directos. Desea la sociedad que el dinero que de esta manera se obtenga se gaste en dar incremento á la inmigración y en mejorar las obras públicas, incluyendo los puertos. Se cree que imponiendo mayores derechos de importación se podría con más facilidad celebrar convenios de reciprocidad comercial con aquellos países que estuviesen dispuestos á otorgar á Cuba condiciones ventajosas.

Opina la Sociedad que los derechos deberían ser especialmente elevados sobre todos los productos tropicales en orden á estimular la producción de los mismos en la isla.

**LA CUBAN BAKING COMPANY.**

La Cuban Baking Company, con un capital social de \$1,000,000, se ha organizado en los Estados Unidos, de conformidad con las leyes del estado de New Jersey. El objeto de esta compañía es poner en operación varios establecimientos de mercaderías, provisiones, etc., en las ciudades de la Habana, Regla, Guanabacoa, Mariano y otras partes de Cuba y las Antillas.

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**ESTADOS UNIDOS.****COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.****IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.**

En la página 447 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de enero de 1900, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los siete meses que terminaron en enero de 1900, comparados con igual período de 1899. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera, no se reciben en el Departamento de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de enero, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en marzo.

**INGRESOS Y EGRESOS EN FEBRERO DE 1900.**

Un estado comparativo de los ingresos y egresos para el mes de febrero muestra que los ingresos totales ascendieron á \$45,631,265 y los egresos á \$37,738,472, dejando un superávit para el mes de \$7,892,793. Las entradas de aduanas fueron por valor de \$19,882,252, lo cual es un aumento, en comparación con el mes de febrero de 1899, de cerca de \$3,000,000; la renta interior produjo \$20,767,437, ó sea un aumento de cerca de \$1,500,000; otros ingresos ascendieron á \$4,981,574, lo que significa un aumento de cerca de \$3,000,000. Los gastos del Departamento de la Guerra montaron á \$9,436,083, ó sea una disminución de cerca de \$6,000,000 en comparación con el mes de febrero de 1899; el Departamento de Marina gastó \$4,045,724, ó sea una disminución de \$350,000. En los últimos ocho meses los ingresos han excedido á los egresos en \$37,763,000.

**CONDICIÓN DE LA COSECHA DE TRIGO.**

La Oficina Meteorológica de los Estados Unidos, en su informe mensual sobre la cosecha de trigo correspondiente al 1° de marzo de 1900, dice lo siguiente: “La falta de nieve para proteger las sementeras en los principales estados donde se produce el trigo de invierno durante la mayor parte del mes, y las frecuentes heladas alternando con los deshielos, han dejado al trigo, al terminarse el mes de febrero, en condiciones más desfavorables que á fines del mes anterior.

“Sin embargo, la condición de la cosecha á fines de febrero es satisfactoria en casi todas las secciones, fuera de los estados de Ohio y Michigan y partes de Indiana, Missouri y Kansas. De Michigan y Ohio se han recibido informes que indican condiciones más desfavorables que en qualquiera época durante el invierno. En cuanto á la costa del Pacífico, informes favorables han llegado de Wáshington, Oregon y la parte central y septentrional de California, aunque en la parte oriental del estado de Wáshington la cosecha sufrió algo como resultado del frío á fines del mes. En la parte meridional de California, donde casi no ha llovido, las sementeras han sufrido mucho á causa de la sequía.”

**INFORME OFICIAL SOBRE LAS COSECHAS.**

El informe de la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Agricultura muestra que la cantidad de trigo que aun permanecía en las heredades el 1° de marzo era como de 158,700,000 *bushels*, ó sea el 29 por ciento de la cosecha del año pasado, contra 198,000,000 *bushels*, ó sea 29.3 por ciento de la cosecha de 1898 que aun quedaba en manos de los agricultores el 1° de marzo de 1899.

Se calcula que la cantidad de maíz que todavía permanece en poder de los agricultores es de 773,700,000 *bushels*, ó sea el 37.2 por ciento de la cosecha del año anterior, contra 800,500,000 *bushels*, ó sea 41.6 por ciento de la cosecha de 1898 que aun se hallaba en las heredades el 1° de marzo de 1899. La cantidad de la cosecha total del año pasado enviada fuera del lugar donde fué producida se calcula en 16.8 por ciento ó cosa de 348,000,000 *bushels*. La cantidad de la cosecha del mismo año que reunía las condiciones necesarias para el mercado se calculaba en 86.9 por ciento.

En cuanto á la avena, se asegura que como 290,900,000 *bushels*, ó sea 36.5 por ciento de la cosecha del año pasado, está todavía en poder de los agricultores, contra 283,000,000 *bushels*, ó sea 38.7 por ciento de la cosecha de 1898 que aun permanecía en las heredades el 1° de marzo de 1899.

**OFICINA INTERNACIONAL DE COSECHAS.**

Mr. J. J. S. BROOMHALL, de la redacción del "Corn Trade News" de Liverpool, llegó á los Estados Unidos el 3 de marzo de este año. La misión de Mr. BROOMHALL es arreglar lo necesario para el establecimiento de una oficina agrícola internacional. Es reconocido este señor como una autoridad en cuanto se relaciona con el mercado de granos. En una entrevista que tuvo con un miembro de la prensa se expresó así: "Alemania y Austria están tratando de organizar una oficina agrícola internacional, y he venido á conferenciar con miembros de la National Board of Trade á fin de ver si los Estados Unidos quieren cooperar en este importante trabajo.

"Abrigo la esperanza de interesar á todos las principales países agrícolas del mundo, á fin de que la recolección de informes y estadísticas referentes á las cosechas se haga de una manera científica y perfecta."

**DERECHOS DE IMPORTACIÓN SOBRE CUEROS Y PIELES.**

El Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos emitió últimamente una resolución relativa á los derechos de importación sobre cueros y pieles que vienen mezclados, y la cual merece llamar la atención de los exportadores de la América latina. Dice así: "Siempre que artículos gravados con derechos de importación vengan mezclados con otros que entran libres de todo derecho, el administrador de la aduana está autorizado para suponer desde luego que dichos efectos han sido mezclados intencionalmente y con el objeto de eludir el cumplimiento de las leyes fiscales. No está él obligado á separar dichos artículos á fin de establecer cuáles deben pagar derechos y cuáles no, y estará perfectamente justificado en imponérselos á todo el cargamento.

"Cuando los efectos han sido mezclados accidentalmente y no de una manera fraudulenta, al importador corresponde probar que éste es el hecho, y debe mostrar cual es la parte del cargamento que no debe estar comprendida en la clasificación del administrador. Las pruebas á este respecto pueden presentarse á la Junta General de Aforadores, cuando el asunto haya sido puesto debidamente en su conocimiento. En el caso que se presente un cargamento de cueros que pagan derechos mezclados con pieles que no los pagan, y toda la cantidad sea aforada como cueros para el pago de derechos, debe suponerse que aquellos artículos cuya condición de pieles no fué demostrada son cueros y que la clasificación del administrador de aduana fué correcta."

Otra resolución emitida por el mismo Departamento fué con referencia á cabezas disecadas de animales, en la cual se declara que deben pagar derechos al 20 por ciento *ad valorem* como artículos manufacturados no clasificados, de conformidad con la sección sexta del arancel de aduanas de 24 julio de 1897.

**EXPORTACIÓN DE CÁÑAMO DE LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS.**

Según las cifras que suministra el Departamento de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos, la exportación total de cáñamo de las islas Filipinas, desde la época en que fueron ocupadas por los Estados Unidos hasta el 31 de diciembre de 1899, ascendió á 95,370 toneladas, valoradas en \$10,998,509. La distribución del producto fué como sigue: á los Estados Unidos, 39,206 toneladas; al Reino Unido, 27,790 toneladas; á China, 21,302 toneladas; á España, 3,814 toneladas; al Japón, 195 toneladas; á India británica, 1,501 toneladas; á Australia, 1,016 toneladas; á Francia, 42 toneladas. Éstas son todas las cantidades que se han recibido, pues acerca de las de Manila durante el mes de diciembre de 1899, y de las de Iloilo en los meses de octubre y diciembre aun no hay informes.

**CONSTRUCCIONES NAVALES EN LOS LAGOS.**

Según el periódico "Iron Age," la industria de construcciones navales en los lagos se ha desarrollado de una manera fenomenal. En la actualidad se están construyendo 37 buques de vapor que tienen un porte total de 185,500 toneladas, y una potencia de 45,950 caballos de fuerza. El costo total de estas embarcaciones será de \$9,000,000. Casi todos estos barcos son de acero, y la mayor parte de ellos podrá llevar de 6,000 á 9,000 toneladas de cargo.

**EXHIBICIÓN POSTAL EN LA EXPOSICIÓN DE PARÍS.**

Como parte de la exhibición de los Estados Unidos figurará en la Exposición de París una oficina de correos americana, que será colocada en un punto muy central, y se ha invitado á los inventores y fabricantes de máquinas especiales y de aparatos de ahorrar trabajo en el servicio postal de los Estados Unidos, para que manden modelos funcionando de sus respectivas invenciones. La Administración General de Correos exhibirá la máquina de cancelar, modelos de tubos neumáticos, los carros para llevar el correo y otras cosas que se usan exclusivamente en el servicio postal de este país. Una media docena de empleados experimentados irá de Wáshington á hacerse cargo de la oficina.

**MANUFACTURA DE MADERA ARTIFICIAL.**

La Artificial Lumber Company comenzó últimamente á erigir un inmenso establecimiento en Berberton, Iowa. Esta compañía tiene un capital de \$11,000,000 y va á emplear 300 operarios. Según el periódico "Paper Trade," el establecimiento podrá producir 60,000 pies de madera por día. Esta madera será hecha principalmente de pulpa de paja y se empleará en decoraciones interiores de edificios y vagones y para la manufactura de cajas y muchos otros artículos.

**EXHIBICIÓN DE MANUFACTURAS DE "WIRE GRASS."**

Desde hace como dos años un establecimiento de una ciudad de Minnesota ha estado fabricando varios artículos hechos de una hierba extraña conocida con el nombre de "wire grass," que crece en algunos pantanos de los Estados Unidos. Dicho establecimiento va á hacer una exhibición de sus productos en la Exposición de París. Los artículos que se exhibirán serán muebles, en que la citada hierba toma el lugar de junco, rota ó sauce, mamparas, coches para niños, cestas y esteras. Se dice que el "wire grass" es ligero, hermoso, elástico y duradero. Según el periódico "Manufacturer," es tan grande la demanda por las manufacturas del mencionado artículo que van á fundarse dos nuevas fábricas. En el establecimiento primitivo hay como 500 personas empleadas constantemente, pero en la estación, cuando se recoge la materia prima, el número de empleados asciende hasta 3,000.

**TRÁFICO ENTRE SEATTLE Y CULIACÁN.**

Mr. F. E. BUTTERFIELD, de Culiacán, México, representante de la Occidental Railway Company, estuvo últimamente en Seattle, é hizo arreglos para comprar y embarcar carbón y madera para el uso de dicha corporación. Manifestó que hasta hoy el carbón se había llevado de Nuevo México, pero que siempre había alguna irregularidad en obtener las cantidades necesarias y que los fletes que había que pagar á dos líneas de ferrocarril hacían muy caro dicho carbón. Se necesitan por lo menos 5,000 toneladas de carbón, y se va á fletar un buque que haga cosa de cinco viajes al año entre los dos puertos. Además del carbón, se ha contratado una cantidad considerable de madera. En los viajes de regreso, los buques vendrán cargados de minerales de México. Se calcula que la compañía en referencia comprará durante este año en el estado de Wáshington por valor de \$50,000 en carbón y madera.

**LA COSECHA DE TABACO DE PUERTO RICO.**

Se dice que la producción anual de tabaco en Puerto Rico asciende á 60,000 fardos de 100 libras cada uno, ó sean 6,000,000 de libras aproximadamente. La extensión de terreno sembrado de tabaco en 1899 fué, según se asegura, de 4,225 acres. Una cosecha normal varía de 5,000 á 10,000 fardos. Se cree que la cosecha de 1900, que ya está casi lista, será extraordinaria y que subirá á 30,000 fardos.

**PRODUCCIÓN DE CÁÑAMO EN LAS FILIPINAS.**

Según informes recibidos de Manila por el cable con fecha 5 de marzo, la cantidad de cáñamo recibida en todos los puertos de las islas durante la semana anterior ascendía á 60,000 pacas, que es la más grande de que hay recuerdo en una sola semana. Los corredores de cáñamo en los

Estados Unidos declaran que esta gran cantidad no puede ejercer gran efecto sobre el precio, porque, según los informes anteriores, la cantidad de cáñamo en las islas, al abrirse los puertos, no era menos de 250,000 pacas. De esta cantidad, 135,000 pacas han entrado ya en el mercado, dejando de 65,000 á 115,000 pacas para entrar en lo futuro. Se anuncia que el precio del cáñamo no bajará mucho de diez centavos por libra durante este año.

#### **SUPRESIÓN DE REGLAMENTOS ESTRICTOS PARA LOS BUQUES QUE TRAEN CAFÉ.**

El 4 de marzo de 1900 el oficial de sanidad del puerto de Nueva York notificó á los agentes y dueños de buques provenientes de Santos, Brasil, que del 5 de marzo en adelante las estrictas regulaciones referentes á navíos procedentes de dicho puerto serían abolidas. En adelante todas las embarcaciones que vienen de Santos podrán pasar á sus respectivos muelles después de la inspección y desinfección de costumbre. Según noticias recibidas de Santos, no ha habido un solo caso de peste bubónica en aquella ciudad durante treinta días antes del 4 de marzo.

#### **LA INDUSTRIA DE SEDA.**

En la reunión anual de la Asociación de Sedería de los Estados Unidos, que se verificó en la ciudad de Nueva York el 8 de febrero del año en curso, se dieron al público estadísticas relativas á esta industria. Por ellas se ve que la producción de seda en los Estados Unidos ha hecho progresos notables y que aumentó mucho durante el año de 1899 sobre 1898. También se observa que el precio de la seda en rama había aumentado mucho, y que mientras que las importaciones en 1899 no fueron mucho mayores, en cuanto á su volumen, que en 1897, la diferencia en el valor de las facturas fué muy grande. En 1899 las importaciones ascendieron á 73,667 pacas, contra 72,496 pacas en 1897. El valor, sin embargo, había aumentado de \$30,636,009 en 1897 á \$41,195,209 en 1899, y el promedio del precio por libra durante los años mencionados fué respectivamente de \$3 y \$4.15.

Hay en 19 de los estados fábricas de sederías, y las principales se encuentran en New Jersey y Pennsylvania, donde hay empleados 47,000 operarios.

Se ha demostrado que la seda en rama puede producirse en los Estados Unidos, pero también se ha visto que, debido á que el trabajo manual es mucho más caro aquí que en los otros países de donde generalmente viene este producto, difícilmente podría hacerse una industria lucrativa entre nosotros. La mayor parte de la seda en rama viene de la China, el Japón é Italia. Una vez devanada, la seda se pone en forma de ovillos y medejas en paquetes que pesan como cinco libras cada uno. La seda italiana tiene un color amarillento, pero la que viene de China y el Japón es blanca.

**DIQUES SECOS DEL GOBIERNO.**

Dos grandes diques de piedra están en vía de construcción en Boston, Massachusetts, y en Portsmouth, New Hampshire, y uno de madera en Mare Island, California. Además, el 21 de octubre de 1899 se recibieron propuestas para la construcción de otro dique en el arsenal de League Island, Philadelphia. Esto ofrecerá á casi todos los puertos importantes del litoral del Atlántico y del golfo de México las facilidades necesarias para poner en diques los más poderosos barcos de guerra. Los diques del Gobierno se encontrarán en Portsmouth, Boston, Nueva York, League Island, Norfolk, Newport News, Port Royal, South Carolina, Key West, Florida y Algiers, Louisiana. Antes de la guerra con España no existían diques adecuados en el país para los grandes acorazados, y la necesidad de estas construcciones se hacía sentir más y más cada día.

**REVISIÓN DE LA LEY DE IMPUESTOS DE PUERTO RICO.**

El Secretario de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos ha pedido al Dr. J. H. HOLLAND, profesor de economía política de la Universidad de Johns Hopkins, de Baltimore, que pase á Puerto Rico como comisionado especial, á fin de revisar las leyes de la isla que versan sobre los impuestos. El Profesor HOLLAND ha obtenido el debido permiso para aceptar este cargo, y tan luego haya terminado el curso académico, visitará la mencionada isla. El Dr. HOLLAND fué secretario de la Conferencia Monetaria de Bruselas de 1897, y es considerado como una autoridad en materias económicas.

**COLECCIONES ETNOLÓGICAS EN LAS FILIPINAS.**

El Coronel F. F. HILDER, de la Oficina de Etnología Americana, fué nombrado últimamente agente especial de la Exposición Panamericana para visitar las Filipinas con el objeto de hacer colecciones científicas, especialmente etnológicas. El Coronel HILDER se propone visitar cuantas islas le sea posible antes de que empiece la estación de las lluvias, en orden á obtener datos relativos á la industria, modo de vida y condiciones sociales de los naturales del país.

**ACERO AMERICANO PARA NORUEGA.**

La noticia que se ha publicado de haber sido recibido en Baltimore un pedido de 2,000 toneladas de rieles de acero para la construcción de ferrocarriles en Noruega, cosa que por primera vez acontece, ha llamado la atención al hecho de que pedidos de la misma clase han sido recibidos en otras ciudades. Noruega importa al año mercancías y productos por valor de \$60,000,000, siendo los principales de estos artículos



harina, materias textiles, maquinaria, aceite, etc. Hasta el día la exportación de rieles de acero americanos á los países europeos había sido insignificante.

Durante los doce meses que terminaron el 1° de enero de 1898 solamente 4,600 toneladas de acero americano en barras para uso en los ferrocarriles fueron enviadas á Europa. Durante los doce meses que terminaron el 1° de enero de 1899 la exportación se elevó á 34,000 toneladas, pero este aumento no se mantuvo, porque durante los últimos seis meses que terminaron el 1° de enero de 1900 la cantidad exportada fué solamente de 21,150 toneladas, con un valor de \$460,000. La Inglaterra ha suplido por largo tiempo de acero á los países escandinavos, no teniendo otro competidor serio que la Alemania. La aparición del acero americano en los citados países sería una sorpresa, si no se reconociera ya el hecho de que los productos de los Estados Unidos van constantemente entrando aun á mercados donde no se les esperaba antes. Aunque Noruega no es uno de los países con que las relaciones comerciales con los Estados Unidos han sido íntimas, toda indica que en lo futuro se desarrollarán considerablemente.

#### AUMENTO EN LA PRODUCCIÓN DE CACAHUETES.

La producción de cacahuets en los Estados Unidos forma solamente una pequeña parte de la cosecha del mundo, pues la cantidad que anualmente se trae á Europe de Africa é India asciende á cerca de 400,000,000 libras, la mitad de la cual va á Marsella para dedicarla á la extracción de aceite.

La cosecha de cacahuets en los Estados Unidos en 1899 excedió á la de 1898 en casi 1,000,000 *bushels*. La mayor parte de esta cantidad fué producida en los estados de Carolina del Norte, Tennessee y Virginia.

Hace solamente veinte años que se dió principio al uso de maquinaria para descascarar los cacahuets, y la experiencia ha demostrado que á medida que han aumentado los medios de suplir el mercado de este producto, ha crecido también el consumo.

#### CONVENCIÓN DE LA ASOCIACIÓN DE MANUFACTUREROS.

La quinta convención annual de la Asociación Nacional de Manufactureros se verificará en la ciudad de Boston durante los días 24, 25 y 26 de abril del año corriente. Se cree que ésta será la asamblea más grande de manufactureros que jamás se ha visto en parte alguna del mundo. El programa, que se parecerá mucho á los de las convenciones anteriores, dispone que haya sesiones dedicadas á los negocios en cada uno de los días mencionados, en la mañana y en la tarde. La primera noche será consagrada á distracciones, pero en la segunda se discutirán asuntos referentes á la educación particularmente aquéllos que se rozan con los intereses industriales y comerciales. La última noche la

reunión tomará la forma de una inmensa convención pública, y se espera que el Presidente McKINLEY y varios oradores populares pronunciarán discursos en esa ocasión.

La New England Cotton Manufacturers' Association también piensa verificar su reunión semestral en Boston los días 25 y 26 de abril y por esto se ha sugerido el pensamiento de que la National Association of Wool Manufacturers, la New England Shoe and Leather Association y quizá otras corporaciones que tienen su centro en aquella ciudad, celebren reuniones en las mismas fechas á fin de dar por resultado una gran convención de los varios intereses industriales del país.

### LA LOCOMOTORA MÁS GRANDE DEL MUNDO.

La locomotora más poderosa del mundo fué construida en los talleres de la compañía conocida con el nombre de Brooks Locomotive Works, y va á correr en lo que se llama la sección del Cairo del Ferrocarril Central de Illinois. El peso total de la máquina es de 232,000 libras, ó sea como 103 toneladas. La base total de la locomotora, que corresponde á las ruedas, es de 26 pies 6 pulgadas, de los cuales tocan á la base de la rueda motriz 15 pies 9 pulgadas. La base de toda la máquina correspondiente á la rueda y al tender mide 55 pies 2½ pulgadas, y el largo total de la máquina y tender es de 65 pies 7½ pulgadas. El centro de la caldera queda á 9 pies 8 pulgadas sobre los rieles, y la chimenea tiene 15 pies 5 pulgadas de alto. La presión es de 210 libras por pulgada cuadrada. El tender puede llevar 7,000 galones de agua y 12 toneladas de carbón.

### MODELOS DE BARCOS DE GUERRA.

En el arsenal de Wáshington se preparan los modelos de los barcos de guerra de los Estados Unidos. Dichos modelos son una reproducción exacta de los buques de guerra de los Estados Unidos. El Gobierno tiene modelos de un gran número de sus navíos de guerra, y algunos de los más grandes son bastante costosos, como, por ejemplo, los del *New York* y del *Columbia* que costaron \$7,000 cada uno. Como \$75,000 se han gastado en estos modelos, varios de los cuales serán exhibidos en la Exposición de París.

### UN NUEVO ARTÍCULO DE EXPORTACIÓN Á HAWAI.

Un nuevo artículo de exportación de San Francisco á las islas de Hawai es el arroz, que últimamente se ha enviado en grandes cantidades á Honolulu, Hilo y otros puertos. Este arroz se cultiva en el estado de Louisiana. Los primeros cargamentos fueron enviados cuando la peste bubónica apareció en las islas, y hasta el 1° de marzo de este año se habían enviado 28,000 sacos de 162 libras cada uno. Antes de esta fecha todo el arroz que se consumía en Hawai, con excepción del que las islas producían, venía del Japón.

### **PLANTAS QUE CONTIENEN JOYAS.**

Uno de los directores de los Kew Gardens, de Londres, en una conferencia que dió últimamente en un instituto de aquella ciudad sobre algunas de las curiosidades que presentan las plantas tropicales, dijo que entre éstas era de notar el hecho de que á veces se encuentran perlas en los cocos de las islas Filipinas, las cuales, como las de el océano, son formadas de carbonato de cal. También el bambú rinde otro producto precioso en la forma de ópalos legítimos que se encuentran en los nudos de la planta.

### **INMIGRACIÓN DE TRABAJADORES EN HAWAI.**

La inmigración de trabajadores en Hawai durante el año de 1899 fué de 21,571 hombres, 5,077 mujeres y 794 niños, lo cual arroja un total de 27,442. De este número 20,561 llegaron bajo contrato y 6,881 libres de compromisos. El número total de los japoneses fué de 26,093, el de los chinos de 983, y el de los portugueses de 343. Además de éstos, hubo cuatro coreanos, 8 italianos y 11 mujeres italianas. Los chinos fueron admitidos en virtud de permisos expedidos hacía más de un año, algunos de los cuales habían sido otorgados á individuos que habían ido á visitar su país con la intención de regresar á Hawai.

### **INGRESOS DE LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS.**

El 3 de marzo del año en curso el Departamento de la Guerra recibió un informe cablegráfico en el que se manifiesta que los ingresos totales de las islas Filipinas, en el mes de febrero, ascendieron á \$426,423. De esta cantidad \$357,000 fueron producidos por las aduanas.

### **LA EXPOSICIÓN PANAMERICANA DE BÚFALO.**

Los reglamentos generales de la Exposición Panamericana de Búfalo de 1901 han sido publicados ya. La junta creada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos ha tomado las debidas disposiciones á fin de incluir en la sección del Gobierno en la Exposición exhibiciones de Puerto Rico, Hawai y las islas Filipinas. También se adoptarán las medidas necesarias para hacer una exhibición espléndida de los productos de Cuba y las islas adyacentes. El interés que las naciones de América han manifestado en esta Exposición y su intención de estar representadas en ella prueban que contribuirá poderosamente al desarrollo de las relaciones comerciales en todo el hemisferio occidental.

### **PRODUCCIÓN DE PAPEL.**

La cantidad de papel producida anualmente en los Estados Unidos representa un valor de \$100,000,000. Como la tercera parte del papel

producido se consume en periódicos, y una cantidad igual á dos terceras partes de ésta se usa como papel de envolver. Como la mitad de lo que se dedica á los periódicos se emplea para libros. Para cartón se emplean 300,000 toneladas al año, y los constructores consumen 60,000 toneladas anualmente. De papel de entapizar se producen al año 45,000 toneladas.

## BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

En esta sección del Boletín Mensual se tratará de los libros y folletos enviados á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que se refieren á asuntos relacionados con los países de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

El canje de publicaciones de Centro y Sud América puede efectuarse por conducto de la "Smithsonian Institution," Wáshington, D. C., por medio de las agencias de distribución que tiene en aquellos países, y que son las siguientes:

Argentina: Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires.

Bolivia: Oficina Nacional de Inmigración, Estadística y Propaganda Geográfica, La Paz.

Chile: Universidad de Chile, Santiago.

Colombia: Biblioteca Nacional, Bogotá.

Costa Rica: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, San José.

Guatemala: Instituto Nacional de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Honduras: Biblioteca Nacional, Tegucigalpa.

México: Todos los envíos gozan de la franquicia del correo.

Nicaragua: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Managua.

Paraguay: Oficina General de Informaciones y Canje y Comisaria General de Inmigración, Asunción.

Perú: Biblioteca Nacional, Lima.

El Salvador: Museo Nacional, San Salvador.

Uruguay: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, Montevideo.

Venezuela: Museo Nacional, Caracas.

Uno de los informes más importantes que han sido enviados al Congreso por el Secretario de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos versa sobre investigaciones agrícolas hechas en Alaska. Dichas investigaciones revelan acerca de aquella vasta región septentrional hechos sorprendentes para los que tienen la costumbre de mirarla como un país cubierto casi siempre de hielo y que no tiene más mérito que el de producir oro, pieles y pescado. Esta publicación demuestra que Alaska encierra grandes recursos, los que, una vez desarrollados,

podrían sostener una población más grande que la de Finlandia y hacer de aquella península un estado muy próspero. El autor del informe, el Profesor C. C. GEORGESON, á cuyo cargo estaba la investigación, trajo á Wáshington 11 muestras diferentes de trigo de primavera, 11 diferentes clases de cebado y avena, así como muestras de centeno, trigo sarraceno y lino.

Dice también el informe que el trébol rojo florece durante todo el invierno en Sitka y que se desarrolla admirablemente, y que otro tanto sucede con varias plantas útiles para forraje. Todas las legumbres de uso más común se dan perfectamente. La relación que el Superintendente de la Alaska Commercial Company hace relativamente á su experiencia en la cría de ganados en Kadiak revela que esa industria será de gran importancia en lo futuro para el desarrollo del territorio. El Gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha reservado terrenos para estaciones agrícolas experimentales en Sitka, Kadiak y Cook Inlet. Una oficina central, conteniendo un laboratorio, biblioteca, etc., fué erigida en Sitka, donde se hace la mayor parte de trabajo científico. Por falta de suficientes fondos, nada se ha emprendido todavía en el interior de Alaska, pero se trata de establecer, por lo menos, una estación experimental en algún punto del río Yukon.

“The Grain Trade of the United States” (El tráfico de grano de los Estados Unidos) es el título de una monografía que acaba de publicar la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda, y es el primero de una serie de estudios sobre la producción y transportación de granos y sobre el comercio interior del país. Se pone de manifiesto en esa obra el gran aumento que ha habido en el desarrollo agrícola de los Estados Unidos, la rapidez con que el cultivo de granos se encamina hacia el oeste y los cambios en las rutas por las cuales dichos artículos son enviados de aquella parte del país á los mercados del este y á los de Europa.

Las estadísticas contenidas en esta obra arrojan mucha luz sobre la condición actual del negocio de granos en los Estados Unidos, especialmente el trigo, y muestran que la exportación ha aumentado con inmensa rapidez. Durante los último treinta y dos años la cantidad de maíz producida ha subido de 868,000,000 *bushels* á 1,924,000,000, lo cual es un aumento de 122 por ciento, mientras que la exportación de este cereal se ha elevado de 16,000,000 *bushels* á 177,000,000, ó sea más de 1,000 por ciento. Durante el mismo período la producción de trigo aumentó de 152,000,000 *bushels* á 675,000,000, ó sea un aumento de 344 por ciento, mientras que la exportación subió de 12,600,000 *bushels* á 222,600,000.

Según la obra en referencia, se ve que desde 1875, y especialmente desde 1880, ha ido en aumento la cantidad de trigo que se exporta en la forma de harina, y que los fabricantes americanos pueden competir

muy bien con los europeos, á pesar de ciertas medidas adversas á los harineros de los Estados Unidos adoptadas en países extranjeros.

“Education in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines,” por R. L. PACKARD. (*United States Bureau of Education, Washington, 1899.*) Este folleto, que es realmente el capítulo XX del informe del Comisionado de Educación de los Estados Unidos para el año económico de 1897-98, trata de este importante asunto en el desarrollo de dichas islas, y contiene estadísticas relativas á las escuelas de Cuba y Puerto Rico. Contiene también una relación histórica sobre las relaciones de España y sus colonias y una noticia sobre el origen y desarrollo de la tendencia separatista, tomada de una autoridad alemana. Asimismo habla de la historia del movimiento literario y científico de Cuba, desde un punto de vista cubano, y hace referencia á los cursos en la Universidad de la Habana y otras instituciones. Se cita la opinión de autoridades competentes sobre el estado de la educación en diferentes épocas hasta 1890.

Los habitantes de las Filipinas son muy diferentes de los de Cuba y Puerto Rico. En aquel archipiélago se hablan como 30 lenguas y dialectos y la población se compone principalmente de naturales del país. En la obra en referencia, al mencionar lo que se ha hecho en materia de educación, se hace justicia al trabajo de los frailes, refiriéndose á los cuales, el escritor se expresa así: “Las quejas que ahora se presentan contra ellos no deberían hacernos olvidar los servicios que en tiempos primitivos prestaron á los naturales y á la civilización.” La lista de libros consultados para la preparación del informe de Mr. PACKARD es una excelente bibliografía de las diferentes islas.

Desde hace casi un año la atención de los buscadores de oro ha estado fija en la región de Cabo Nome. En el periódico “National Geographic Magazine” correspondiente al mes de enero próximo pasado, se dan algunos informes acerca de aquel distrito.

El distrito de Cabo Nome está situado en la costa noroeste de Alaska, á la entrada de Norton Sound. No fué sino en 1899 que se descubrió la existencia de oro en el Cabo Nome. En su mayor parte este metal se encuentra bajo una capa de cascajo de dos ó tres pies de espesor.

La producción de dicha región en 1899 fué calculada en \$2,000,000. Entre el verano y el otoño de 1899 se fundó en aquellas costas desiertas una ciudad de más de 5,000 habitantes, que llegaron de Dawson City y otros puntos en el Yukon, de los distritos meridionales de Alaska y de la costa del Pacífico de los Estados Unidos. Hay, probablemente, en la actualidad 3,000 personas pasando el invierno en Nome, y se cree que en el verano próximo la población no bajará de 25,000 habitantes.

El Cabo Nome no es puerto de mar. Las bahías más inmediatas donde pueden anclar buques de alto bordo son Port Clarence, que está

60 millas al noroeste, y Golofnin Bay, como á la misma distancia al sudeste. Es probable que una de estas bahías sea unida por medio de un ferrocarril con el distrito de Nome.

Con el título de “Historia Geográfica Natural y Civil del Reino de Chile,” ha publicado el Señor Don J. T. MEDINA una obra escrita en la última mitad del siglo XVIII por el Padre FELIPE GÓMEZ DE VIDAURRE. Refiriéndose á este trabajo, dice el Señor MEDINA, en una nota que aparece al fin de la introducción escrita por él mismo, lo que sigue:

“El manuscrito que nos ha servido para la presente publicación fué copiado bajo nuestra dirección y por encargo del Gobierno de Chile, del manuscrito del autor, que se guarda en la Real Academia de la Historia en Madrid.”

El trabajo del Padre VIDAURRE consta de dos partes esencialmente diversas, que corresponden á cada uno de los tomos en que ha sido publicado. La primera comprende propiamente la historia natural de Chile, y la segunda su historia civil y política. Respecto á la primera parte, he aquí como se expresa un sabio escritor, el Dr. Don R. A. PHILIPPI:

“El leído con mucha atención la obra de Padre GÓMEZ DE VIDAURRE en la parte que trata de las plantas y animales de Chile. Como no era naturalista, ha incurrido en los mismos errores de la obra de MOLINA, añadiendo algunos otros, por que le faltaban los conocimientos científicos que se los abrían hecho evitar.”

Otro juez no menos competente aprecia la parte del libro relativa á la historia civil, en estas palabras:

“La obra de VIDAURRE hasta los sucesos de 1655 es una especie de compendio de la obra de OLIVARES, en que se percibe, junto con la falta de informaciones luminosas y seguras, la carencia del sentido histórico para encadenar los hechos y para darles sus verdaderas proporciones.”

Con todo y á pesar de la severa crítica de que ha sido objeto por parte de los dos mencionados escritores el trabajo del Padre VIDAURRE, es indudable que merece ser considerado como un estudio muy importante de la época sobre que versa y que es digno de ser leído por todos aquéllos que se interesen en la historia colonial de Chile.

Debido á una atención de los Señores Silver, Burdett & Co., de New York, Boston y Chicago, la biblioteca de esta Oficina ha recibido una valiosa adquisición en forma de 40 libros de texto para escuela. Comprenden un curso completo de instrucción normal, incluyendo series de libros de lectura suplementarios, cursos normales de lectura, aritmética superior, estudios de gramática inglesa, los primeros pasos en el estudio de la historia de los Estados Unidos, una historia completa del país por WILLIAM A. MOWRY, y siete volúmenes de lectura sobre geo-

grafía. Hay también libros de texto de química, fisiología é higiene. Una colección muy interesante es la de los cantos nacionales, publicada por CHARLES W. JOHNSTON. Hay también libros de texto en español para instrucción primaria. Toda la colección muestra cuáles son los métodos de enseñanza en los Estados Unidos, y se cree que la misma casa publicará libros de texto en lengua española para uso en las nuevas posesiones insulares de este país.

El periódico "The Railway Gazette" da en su último número, correspondiente al mes de febrero de este año, una relación interesante sobre los ferrocarriles que había en construcción en los Estados Unidos, Canadá y México el año de 1899. Según los cálculos que hace dicho periódico, 284 compañías construyeron en los Estados Unidos 4,569 millas, 19 compañías construyeron en el Canadá 656 millas, y 10 compañías construyeron en México 267 millas. Esto fué un aumento considerable sobre el año precedente en cada uno de los países, pues en 1898 el aumento en los Estados Unidos fué de 3,265 millas, en el Canadá de 507 millas y en México de 495. Durante los últimos cuatro años el promedio de construcción en los Estados Unidos fué solamente como de 2,000 millas al año, y el cómputo para 1899 excede á la construcción en cualquier otro año desde 1890, pues entonces se construyeron 5,329 millas de vías férreas. El máximo de construcción en la historia de los Estados Unidos fué en 1887, cuando ascendió á 12,878 millas.

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos ha publicado últimamente un folleto, que es el cuarto número de una nueva serie en la Sección de Entomología. Dicho folleto contiene varios artículos cortos y notas, y se titula "Some Miscellaneous Results of the Work of the Division of Entomology." Entre los asuntos de que trata figuran el *kissing bug* (*Melanolestes picipes* y *Reduvires personatus*), que infundió tanto miedo en los Estados Unidos en 1899; el insecto conocido con el nombre de "*bronze apple tree weevil*" (*Magdalis aenescin* Lec.); insectos con escamas llevados en las frutas que van de América á Alemania; noticias sobre una colección de insectos con escama que se encuentran en la isla de Puerto Rico; el denominado "*cotton stainer*" del Perú, y notas relativas á la langosta en la República Argentina y en Lorenzo Márquez.

"La Educación en los Estados Unidos" es el título de una obra en dos tomos por el Profesor NICOLÁS MURRAY BUTLER, la cual figurará en la sección de artículos de educación en la Exposición de París. La obra consta de 19 monografías, preparada cada una por un especialista notable, y las cuales, tomadas en conjunto, dan una idea exacta de la actividad que se ha desarrollado en los Estados Unidos en materia de enseñanza. Se trata de presentar un ejemplar de dicha



obra, lujosamente encuadernado, á los principales gobiernos del mundo, así como á las bibliotecas públicas é instituciones de educación más notables. El público en general tendrá ocasión de comprar esta obra á precios moderados.

El Departamento de Agricultura ha publicado un folleto relativo á la distribución de los productos agrícolas que se han exportado de los Estados Unidos de 1894 á 1898. El valor del promedio anual durante este período fué de \$663,536,201, ó sea 69.58 por ciento de todos los productos del país. Durante los cinco años en referencia la exportación de productos agrícolas de los Estados Unidos á la Gran Bretaña, Alemania, Francia, Bélgica, Canadá, Holanda, Japón, Italia, Dinamarca y las posesiones inglesas en África, aumentó. El aumento principal se verificó con relación al Reino Unido, pero también lo hubo en cuanto á Bélgica, Holanda, Francia y Alemania.

Mr. A. R. SPOFFORD, de la Biblioteca Nacional de los Estados Unidos, ha escrito el prólogo de una nueva obra que va á ser publicada por Putnam, con este título: "A Book for All Readers." Trata de la manera de fundar y conservar bibliotecas públicas y privadas. Una parte de la obra está dedicada á la ciencia de la bibliografía, propiamente hablando, y el resto se refiere á la manera de escoger los libros, al arte de leer, al de encuadernar, á la historia de las bibliotecas, y, en una palabra, á asuntos de interés, no solamente para las personas amantes de la literatura, sino para el público en general.

Otro factor importante figura actualmente en el sistema de educación agrícola de los Estados Unidos. Es la obra titulada "Farmers' Reading Courses," que ocupa un puesto importante entre otros trabajos de esta misma clase. Dicha publicación es un compendio de un artículo escrito por el Profesor L. H. BAILEY. Contiene el folleto una lista de publicaciones sobre agricultura muy recomendadas para el uso de los agricultores. El Departamento de Agricultura ha publicado un número de boletines que tratan de manera clara y concisa sobre materias agrícolas, y los cuales se distribuyen gratis.

"The Anglo-Boer Conflict, Its History and Its Cost," es el título de un libro por ALLEYNE IRELAND (Small, Maynard & Co., Boston, 1900). "El objeto que me he propuesto," dice Mr. IRELAND en el prólogo de su obra, "es dar una relación breve y exacta de los acontecimientos que han sido causa de la guerra, para el uso de aquellas personas que, á pesar de que sienten gran interés en la situación, no pueden leer todo lo que se ha dicho por muchos escritores sobre el particular y por extensos documentos oficiales." La prensa ha hablado favorablemente del trabajo del Mr. IRELAND.

Las páginas adelantadas de los informes consulares de los Estados Unidos, publicadas el 27 de febrero de 1900, están dedicadas principalmente á la industria de cazabe en la América latina. Este producto se obtiene de la mandioca. Se conocen dos plantas de esta clase, una amarga y la otra dulce. Los naturales de Guatemala hacen de la mandioca pan y almidón. En Honduras solamente la emplean para sacar de ella almidón. Es indudable que el alimento que se saca de este raíz es altamente nutritivo y bien puede competir con las patatas como substancia alimenticia.

# BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

VOL. VIII.

MARÇO DE 1900.

No. 3.

## EXPORTAÇÃO DE LOCOMOTIVAS AMERICANAS.

Segundo “El Economista,” de Lima, Peru, correspondente ao 20 de Janeiro, a exportação de locomotivas americanas augmenta satisfactoriamente e sua popularidade no exterior se comprova pelo numero crescente que d’ellas se enviam deste paiz. Durante os ultimos doze annos as exportações annuaes teem augmentado de 52 a 338. Os algarismos em seguida mostram o numero de locomotivas e seu valor em cada um dos annos citados:

Anno.	Numero.	Valor.
1876 .....	\$52	\$333, 393
1878 .....	58	337, 245
1888 .....	56	401, 014
1889 .....	144	1, 227, 146
1890 .....	161	1, 280, 060
1891 .....	275	2, 424, 363
1892 .....	197	1, 717, 715
1893 .....	195	1, 794, 709
1894 .....	142	1, 028, 330
1895 .....	252	2, 397, 519
1896 .....	261	2, 512, 270
1897 .....	338	3, 220, 831

A julgar pelas exportações do mez de Janeiro proximo passado, é de esperar-se que a maior cifra se obterá no anno economico de 1899-1900. Até o presente teem-se enviado já umas 270 locomotivas para o exterior.

## INDUSTRIA DE CARROS DE AÇO DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Anteriormente ao anno de 1896 não existia praticamente nos Estados Unidos a industria de carros de aço. No principio do anno de 1900, porem, houve empregado nesta industria 10,000 homens e rapa-

zes, e se espera que este numero receberá grande augmento no correr do anno. Carros de aço de fabricação americana encontram-se em diversas partes do Hemispherio Occidental, na Europa e até na Africa e em outras regiões em que, por razões evidentes, são preferidos aos carros ordinarios feitos de madeira. Uma carga que esmagaria um carro de madeira é levada facilmente pelo carro de aço. Sua capacidade ordinaria é de 100,000 libras.

A "Pressed Steel Car Co.," de Pittsburg, recebeu recentemente encomendas de tres das principaes companhias de estradas de ferro dos Estados Unidos para a construcção de 2,500 carros, da capacidade de 100,000 libras cada um. O valor destes será de \$2,750,000. No mez de Dezembro de 1899 o Governo francez encomendou á dita companhia a construcção de 100 carros de carga de aço para a estrada de ferro que vai de Pariz a Lyão e ao Mediterraneo. Estão-se construindo 70 carros de carga para ser empregados na "Egyptian Railroad," que é um caminho de ferro de bitola estreita do Egypto. Estes carros serão embarcados em secções e peritos dos Estados Unidos serão enviados para juntal-as depois de chegadas.

A maior que é a capacidade do carro de aço a menor é a proporção do seu peso para a carga levada. O carro de aço levando uma carga de 100,000 libras pesa 35,000 libras, peso identico com o do carro de madeira que tem a capacidade de só 70,000 libras. O carro de madeira dura, pela media, quinze annos, e para conservar-se em bom estado custa, pela media, \$35 por anno, emquanto que o carro de aço dura para cincoenta annos e o custo dos concertos é de só \$10 ou \$15 por anno.

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## USO DE PETROLEO NAS LOCOMOTIVAS DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Diz o Professor T. G. MENDENHALL que a invenção da machina de vapor tem feito do carvão tal fonte de poder que tem collocado á disposição do homem uma quantidade de força motora 50 por cento maior que a que produz a força muscular da população inteira da terra, mas que a producção de carvão não é já sufficiente, de onde resulta que é necessario buscar outra classe de combustivel economico, já seja natural ou artificial. Em algumas partes dos Estados Unidos se emprega o petroleo crú, mas seu uso tanto neste paiz como na Europa não pode generalizar-se por ser um artigo mais custoso que o carvão.

O petroleo se emprega nas locomotivas na California do Sul, onde é muito custoso o carvão. O periodico "Modern Machinery," correspondente a Janeiro de 1900, descreve o methodo empregado para queimar o petroleo nas caixas de fogo das locomotivas. O combustivel penetra na forma de rocio, acompanhado de certa quantidade de ar ou

vapor, e assim é queimado. Geralmente é necessario proteger com tijolos refractarios a superficie das caixas de fogo junto ao conducto por onde entra o ar ou o vapor, por causa do intenso calor que se produz queimando o petroleo da maneira indicada.

A Estrada de Ferro de Fitchburg tem adoptado uma modificação deste systema afim de evitar, em quanto seja possivel, a accumulção de fumo e gaz no tunnel de Hoosac, que tem cerca de 5 milhas de comprimento. Pediu-se ás officinas de Baldwin um apparelho em que se queime petroleo e que se possa ligar a qualquer locomotiva. As ditas officinas construíram um que se tem ensaiado com excellentes resultados.

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## NOVOS NAVIOS DE VAPOR EM CONSTRUÇÃO.

Como diz muito bem o periodico “Scientific American” correspondente a este mez, tem começado uma nova era na construcção de navios de vapor, tanto neste paiz como no estrangeiro, e o facto de haver-se retirado do trafico uma grande frota de vapores com o objecto de levar soldados inglezes ao Sul da Africa, parece demonstrar que o numero de navios de vapor no trafico maritimo é insufficiente quando se apresentam emergencias que podem succeder em qualquer epocha. Não sómente o commercio da costa do Pacifico soffreu por ter-se tomado como transportes um numero consideravel de vapores afim de conduzir tropas e munições de guerra ás ilhas Philippinas, mas que o serviço de passageiros para a Exposição de Pariz o verão proximo soffrerá mais ou menos por falta de vapores. Serão muito poucos, si é que ha alguns, os que se poderão fretar para levar o extraordinario numero de passageiros, e alguns dos grandes transatlanticos estarão fóra de serviço. Seis vapores da linha de Cunard e tres da White Star, incluindo o grande *Majestic*, estão actualmente empregados pelo Governo britanico, e todos elles figuram entre os mais commodos e esplendidos dos que navegam atravez do Atlantico. É duvidoso que estes vapores possam ser devoltos ás respectivas companhias em tempo de tomar parte no immenso commercio que occasionará a Exposição de Pariz.

Quando chegar a primavera haverá varios transatlanticos novos terminados, o que em parte compensará pela perda dos grandes vapores das linhas inglezas. A Holland-American Line espera ter prompto para então, o *Potsdam*, esplendido navio de grandes dimensões. A linha franceza lançará ao mar tres novos vapores, iguaes em todo aos melhores que a companhia tem no serviço transatlantico. Estes navios, que trarão os nomes de *La Savoie*, *La Lorraine* e *L'Aquitaine*, formarão por si só uma frota consideravel.

Estão-se construindo neste paiz muitos vapores, que estarão concluidos dentro de um ou dous annos. Varios d'elles serão para o commercio da costa do Pacifico, o qual prova que as relações commerciaes entre

aquella parte dos Estados Unidos e os paizes orientaes tomam de dia em dia maior incremento. Crê-se que no curso de cinco annos haverá vinte e cinco vapores novos de grande tonelagem fazendo a carreira entre a costa do Pacifico, a China, o Japão e as Philippinas.

Assegura-se que todos os estaleiros dos Estados Unidos, incluindo os dos Grandes Lagos, têm quantas ordens que podem satisfazer dentro de um anno. O commercio do mundo tem augmentado de tal sorte nos ultimos tempos, que os vapores que se dedicam a elle não são sufficientes para satisfazer a immensidade deste commercio, e este facto tem vindo a fazer-se mais palpavel pelas condições que acarreta a guerra. É claro que na nova era que tem começado os Estados Unidos vão a tomar uma parte activa e que o renascimento das construcções navaes americanas, por tão largo tempo esperado, já tem chegado.

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## EXPORTAÇÃO DE PRODUCTOS AGRICOLAS DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

O Ministerio da Agricultura tem publicado um folheto comprehensivo sobre a distribuição dos productos agricolas exportados dos Estados Unidos no quinquennio de 1894 a 1898. O valor médio annual da exportação nesse periodo foi de \$663,536,201, ou 69.58 por cento do total da exportação de productos nacionaes. Desta quantia, 54.62 por cento corresponde ao valor da exportação para o Reino Unido; Allemanha, 13.01 por cento; França, 6.63 por cento; Paizes baixos, 4.34 por cento; Belgica, 3.58 por cento; Canadá, 3.47 por cento; Italia, 2.15 por cento, e Hespanha, 1.47 por cento. Os outros paizes tomaram menos que 1 por cento do total.

Durante esse periodo houve um augmento na exportação de productos agricolas para a Grã Bretanha, Allemanha, França, Belgica, Canadá, os Paizes baixos, Japão, Italia, Dinamarca e Africa Ingleza. O maior augmento na exportação foi para o Reino Unido, mas tambem foi notavel o augmento havido na exportação para a Belgica e Hollanda e importante no caso da França e Allemanha. A exportação annual para o Canadá durante todo esse periodo foi, pela média, de \$23,000,000. As Antilhas receberam productos agricolas no valor annual de \$17,000,000, enquanto que a America do Sul importou, pela média, no valor de \$11,389,761, quantia da qual mais que metade corresponde ao Brazil.

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## DESTRUIÇÃO DOS RATOS.

O Marine-Hospital Service do Governo dos Estados Unidos tem dirigido uma circular aos capitães de navios, directores de dique, etc., recomendando-lhes que tenham cuidado com os ratos, mortos ou vivos, nas

embarcações que cheguem de Portugal, o Brazil, a Republica Argentina e especialmente Honolulu e os portos asiaticos. Recommenda-se particularmente que se faça um exame scientifico dos corpos dos ratos mortos, afim de determinar si morreram de peste bubonica. Se previene a todas as pessoas que não toquem com as mãos descobertas os corpos dos ratos mortos, mas que façam uso de tenazes, e se recomenda que os lugares onde se encontrem estes animaes sejam desinfectados com uma solução de acido carbólico ou chlorureto de mercurio, ou na falta destes, com agua fervendo. Os corpos destes animaes hão de ser queimados.

Tem motivado esta circular o facto reconhecido de que os ratos são em grande parte responsaveis pela propagação da peste bubonica, e que a levam a grandes distancias. Não sómente a peste bubonica tem sido levada pelos ratos de um porto a outro, mas tambem a colera e outras enfermidades contagiosas. Os Governos da India, da China e do Japão offerecem um premio pelos corpos de ratos que tenham sido tomados a bordo de navios que cheguem a seus portos. Na pagina 818 do *BOLETIM MENSAL*, correspondente ao mez de Dezembro, se dá conta de uma cruzada contra os ratos que se verificou na cidade de Santos, estado de São Paulo, Brazil.

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## BOLIVIA.

### NEGROS COMO TRABALHADORES.

Um telegramma de Nova Orleans, com data de 20 de Fevereiro, 1900, annuncia que tem chegado áquella cidade de Bolivia, o Sr. Capitão *FRANK MORITZ*, do estado de Pennsylvania, e *ROBERT SKIFFINGTON*, de Chicago, Illinois, os quaes tem explorado o territorio do Alto Amazonas e comprado da Republica da Bolivia 4,700 milhas quadradas de terras nesta secção adaptadas ao cultivo da borracha. Esta area será plantada em arvores de borracha pela “Chicago and Bolivia Rubber Company,” e os senhores mencionados foram a Nova Orleans com o objecto de contratar trabalho americano. Depois de uma completa investigação das condições de trabalho na Bolivia, ficaram convencidos de que o trabalho indigeno não é satisfactorio e propoem-se substitui-lo pelos negros dos Estados Unidos.

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## BRAZIL.

### RESTABELECIMENTO DO COMMERCIO ENTRE OS ESTADOS UNIDOS E O BRAZIL.

Noticias recebidas de Baltimore dizem que a crescente demanda de navios de vela, devido á falta de carvão no estrangeiro e á retirada de vapores britannicos para o serviço de guerra, tem dado em resultado

grande augmento nos contratos de navios denominados “square riggers” e “clippers” de Baltimore, e que o commercio do Brazil daquelle porto, que estava quasi extincto, tem sido restabelecido com assombrosa rapidez. Ha poucos mezes, embarcações da frota do Rio foram retiradas e enviadas para as Antilhas, encarregadas de carvão, mas agora estão-se contratando novos vapores para este commercio. Anteriormente os vapores britannicos levavam cargas avultadas para o Brazil e outros paizes da America do Sul, regressando com carregamentos de café, por preços tão baixos que os navios de vela dos Estados Unidos não podiam competir com elles. O Sr. C. MORTON STEWART, proprietario da frota de barcos de Stewart que fazem a carreira de Baltimore ao Brazil, diz que todos os barcos de sua frota estão empregados no commercio do Rio, o qual tem augmentado consideravelmente e dá indicações de maior augmento ainda.

#### **REVOGAÇÃO DOS REGULAMENTOS RESTRICTIVOS PARA AS EMBARCAÇÕES DE CAFÉ.**

No dia 4 de Março de 1900, o inspector de saude do porto de Nova York avisou aos donos e agentes de navios chegando de Santos, Brazil, que do dia 5 de Março em diante ficariam revogados os regulamentos restrictivos impostos nas embarcações que chegassem daquelle porto. Depois desta data todas as embarcações vindas de Santos serão permittidas a proseguir aos trapiches depois de feitas a inspecção e desinfecção ordinarias. Os commerciantes e consignatarios manifestaram grande satisfacção pela abolição destes regulamentos que eram motivo de grandes demoras e despesas. Telegramma recebido de Santos, datado de 4 de Março, annuncia que não existe um caso da peste bubonica naquelle cidade desde ha trinta dias.

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### **ESTADOS UNIDOS.**

#### **RECEITA E DESPEZA NO MEZ DE FEVEREIRO, 1900.**

A relação mensal da receita e despesa do Governo mostra que a receita total para o mez de Fevereiro foi de \$45,631,265 e de \$37,738,472 a despesa, deixando um saldo durante o mez na importancia de \$7,892,793. As receitas das alfandegas montaram a \$19,882,252, as quaes, comparadas com as de Fevereiro de 1899, mostram um augmento de cerca de \$1,500,000; a renda interna montou a \$20,767,437, o qual mostra um augmento de \$1,500,000 sobre a renda do anno anterior; receitas miscellaneas, \$4,981,574, ou um augmento de cerca de \$3,000,000. As despesas por conta da Secretaria de Guerra montaram a \$9,436,083, o qual mostra uma diminuição de \$6,000,000, comparado com as des-



pezas do mez de Fevereiro de 1899; as despesas correspondentes á Secretaria da marinha foram de \$4,045,724, o qual mostra uma diminuição de \$350,000. Durante os ultimos oito mezes, o total das receitas excedeu o total das despesas por \$37,763,000.

### CONDIÇÃO DA COLHEITA DE TRIGO.

A Repartição Meteorologica dos Estados Unidos em seu relatorio mensal sobre a colheita de trigo, correspondente ao 1º de Março de 1900, diz o seguinte: “A falta de neve para proteger as sementeiras nos principaes estados onde se produz o trigo de inverno, durante a maior parte do mez, e as frequentes geladas alternando com os degelos, teem deixado o trigo, ao terminar-se o mez de Fevereiro, em condições mais desfavoraveis que em fins do mez anterior. Porem, a condição da colheita a fins de Fevereiro é satisfactoria em quasi todas as secções, fóra dos estados de Ohio e Michigan e partes de Indiana, Missouri e Kansas. De Michigan e Ohio se teem recebido informações que indicam condições mais desfavoraveis que em qualquer epocha durante o inverno. Em quanto á costa do Pacifico, informações favoraveis teem chegado de Washington, Oregon e a parte central e septentrional da California, ainda que na parte oriental do estado de Washington a colheita soffreu algo como resultado do frio a fins do mez. Na parte meridional de California onde quasi não têm cahido chuvas, as sementeiras teem soffrido muito por causa da secca.”

### RELATORIO OFFICIAL SOBRE AS COLHEITAS.

O relatorio da Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria de Agricultura mostra que a quantidade de trigo que ainda permanecia em mãos dos agricultores o 1º de Março de 1899 foi de 158,700,000 *bushels*, ou seja 29 por cento da colheita do anno passado, contra 198,000,000 *bushels*, ou seja 29.3 por cento da colheita de 1898, que ainda ficava em mãos dos agricultores o 1º de Março de 1899.

Calcula-se que a quantidade de milho que todavia permanece em poder dos agricultores é de 773,700,000 *bushels*, ou seja 37.2 por cento da colheita do anno anterior, contra 800,500,000 *bushels*, ou seja 41.6 por cento da colheita de 1898, que ainda se achava em poder dos cultivadores o 1º de Março de 1899. A quantidade da colheita total do anno passado enviada fora do lugar onde foi produzida é calculada em 16.8 por cento, ou cerca de 348,000,000 *bushels*. A quantidade da colheita do mesmo anno que reunia as condições necessarias para o mercado se calculava em 86.9 per cento.

Quanto á aveia, se calcula que uns 290,900,000 *bushels*, ou seja 36.5 por cento da colheita do anno passado, está todavia em poder dos agricultores, contra 283,000,000 *bushels*, ou seja 38.7 por cento da colheita de 1898, que ainda permanecia em mãos dos cultivadores no dia 1º de Março de 1899.

**CONGRESSO DA ASSOCIAÇÃO NACIONAL DE FABRICANTES.**

O quinto congresso annual da Associação Nacional de Fabricantes realizar-se-ha em Boston nos dias 24, 25 e 26 de Abril. Espera-se que essa reunião de fabricantes será a maior que se tem realizado em parte qualquer do mundo. Segundo o programma do Congresso, haverá duas sessões, uma pela manhã e outra pela tarde, para tratar de assumptos de interesse á assemblea. Na noite do primeiro dia da reunião, os membros divirtir-se-hão e na do segundo dia occupar-se-hão na discussão de assumptos de educação, especialmente os que ligam-se a interesses manufactureiros e commerciaes. Na noite do ultimo dia do Congresso, realizar-se-há uma grande sessão publica, a qual assistirá o Presidente McKINLEY e muitos oradores de grande popularidade os quaes pronunciarão curtos discursos.

Tambem a Associação de Fabricantes de Tecidos de Algodão de Nova Inglaterra tenciona realizar sua reunião semi-annual em Boston, a 25 e 26 de Abril, e isto tem suggerido a idea de que a Associação Nacional de Fabricantes de Generos de Lã e a Associação de Couros e Calçado de Nova Inglaterra, assim como outras associações, sejam persuadidas de reunirem-se nas datas mencionadas afim de fazer uma grande reunião dos varios interesses manufactureiros do paiz.

**ESTALEIROS DO GOVERNO.**

Dous grandes estaleiros de pedra estão em via de construcção em Boston e em Portsmouth, e um de madeira em Mare Island. Além destes, no dia 21 de Outubro, 1899, ficou aberta concurrencia publica para a construcção de outro dique no arsenal de League Island. Isto offerecerá a quasi todos os portos importantes do littoral do Atlantico e do Golpho de Mexico as facilidades necessarias para pôr em diques os mais poderosos navios de guerra. Os estaleiros do Governo se encontrarão em Portsmouth, Boston, Nova York, League Island, Norfolk, Newport News, Port Royal, Key West e Algiers. Antes da guerra com a Hespanha não existiam diques adequados no paiz para os grandes encouraçados e a necessidade destas construcções se fazia sentir mais e mais cada dia.

**A LOCOMOTIVA MAIS GRANDE DO MUNDO.**

A locomotiva mais poderosa do mundo foi construida nas officinas da companhia conhecida com o nome de Brooks Locomotive Works e será empregado no ramal de Cairo da Estrada de Ferro Central de Illinois. O peso total da machina é de 232,000 libras ou cerca de 103 toneladas. A base total da locomotiva, que corresponde ás rodas, é de 26 pés 6 pollegadas, dos quaes tocam á base da roda motora 15 pés 9 pollegadas. A base de toda a machina correspondente á roda e ao

wagon mede 55 pés  $2\frac{1}{4}$  pollegadas e o comprimento total da machina e wagon é de 65 pés  $7\frac{3}{8}$  pollegadas. O centro da caldeira fica a 9 pés 8 pollegadas sobre os trilhos, e a chaminé tem 15 pés 5 pollegadas de altura. A pressão é de 210 libras por pollegada quadrada. O wagon pode levar 7,000 gallões de agua e 12 toneladas de carvão.

#### EMPREGO DE AUTOMOVEIS NO SERVIÇO DE COLLECTA DAS MALAS.

A "Electric Vehicle Co." está actualmente negociando com a Repartição do Correio dos Estados Unidos para a manufactura de automoveis para o serviço de collecta e distribuição das malas nas principais cidades do paiz. Diz-se que os funcionarios do Correio estão muito interessados no assumpto e que acaba de fazer-se na cidade de Washington um ensaio do automovel, o qual tem demonstrado que para a collecta das malas de sub-agencias o automovel é mais rapido e sua operação menos custosa que o systema presentemente em uso. Outros ensaios vão ser feitos na cidade de Nova York, e, si tiverem exito, o emprego de automoveis será recommendado ao Congresso e uma verba será pedida para a compra de automoveis para ser empregados nas cidades de Nova York, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, Chicago, e St. Louis.

#### GRANDE CONTRACTO PARA A CONSTRUÇÃO DE NAVIOS A VAPOR.

A "William Cramp and Sons Shipbuilding Co.," de Philadelphia, tem recebido uma encomenda para a construção de dous vapores para a firma Spreckels, de San Francisco, California. Esses navios serão empregados no commercio do Pacifico. A "Cramp Co." tambem tem contractos para construção de dez navios para o transporte das malas, os quaes, em caso de guerra, poderão ser convertidos em cruzadores auxiliares. Tres destes navios estão destinados ao serviço da "New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Co.," dous destes ao da "Oceanic Steamship Co.," dous a "International Navigation Co.," e dous a "Clyde Line."

#### MODELOS DE NAVIOS DE GUERRA.

No arsenal de Washington se preparam os modelos dos navios de guerra dos Estados Unidos. Os ditos modelos são uma reproducção exacta dos navios de guerra dos Estados Unidos. O Governo tem modelos de um grande numero de seus navios de guerra, e alguns dos mais grandes são bastante custosos, como, por exemplo, os do *New York* e do *Columbia*, que custaram \$7,000 cada um. A quantia de \$75,000 tem-se gasto nestes modelos, varios dos quaes serão exhibidos na Exposição de Pariz.

**CONSTRUÇÕES NAVAES NOS LAGOS.**

Segundo o periodico “Iron Age,” ha grande actividade na industria de construcções navaes nos Grandes Lagos. Na actualidade estão em via de construcção nos arsenaes dos lagos, 37 vapores, que representam um dispendio de \$9,000,000. A tonelagem total desses vapores é de 185,500 toneladas e sua potencia total 45,950 cavallos de força. Quasi todos estes vapores são construidos de aço e alguns delles podem levar de 6,000 a 9,000 toneladas de mineral.

**EXHIBIÇÃO POSTAL NA EXPOSIÇÃO DE PARIZ.**

Uma divisão do correio americano fará parte da exhibição dos Estados Unidos na Exposição de Pariz. Essa divisão postal occupará um lugar importante na Exposição. Tem-se pedido aos inventores e manufactureiros de machinas especiaes eapparelhos para economisar trabalho para uso no systema postal dos Estados Unidos que façam modelos dessas machinas para ser exhibidas na Exposição. Tambem serão exhibidos machinas de inutilizar, tubos pneumaticos de correio, carros de correio e outros apparelhos que se usam exclusivamente no serviço postal deste paiz. Empregados da Repartição Postal em Washington serão enviados a Pariz, a cujo cargo será essa exhibição.

**MANUFACTURAS DE UMA ESPECIE DE HERVA DENOMINADA  
“WIRE GRASS.”**

Da “wire grass” (*Poa compressa*), que se encontra nos pantanos dos Estados Unidos, se manufacturam diversos artigos. Uma fabrica estabelecida em Minnesota, ha dous annos, enviará á Exposição de Pariz amostras desses productos. Os artigos abrangerão moveis, biombos, carrinhos de criança, cestos, jardineiras e esteiras. Essa herva é ligeira, elastica e dura por muito tempo. Segundo o periodico “The Manufacturer,” ha grande procura deste producto e estão-se construindo duas novas fabricas. Na fabrica de Minnesota ha regularmente empregado 500 pessoas, emquanto que na epocha em que se recolhe a materia prima se empregam como 3,000 pessoas.

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**GUATEMALA.****MOVIMENTO DA NAVEGAÇÃO.**

Entraram nos portos de Guatemala, no anno de 1893, embarcações das seguintes nacionalidades:

Americanas .....	378
Alle mãs .....	55
Britannicas .....	47
Noruegas .....	20

Desde este anno tem havido augmento consideravel no numero de embarcações entradas. Antes da conclusão da Estrada de Ferro do Norte que estende-se da cidade de Guatemala a Puerto Barrios quasi todo o commercio de importação e exportação no lado do Atlantico foi effectuado pelo Departamento de Verapaz. Por conseguinte o trafego neste lado é pouco desenvolvido.

Não obstante isso a "Hamburg-American Line" tem deixado atraz a "English Atlas Line" devido ao estado prospero do Departamento de Verapaz que foi obtido pelos esforços dos allemães. Emquanto que em 1896 sómente 4 embarcações allemãs tocaram em Livingston, perto de Puerto Barrios, o numero agora tem subido a 18 annualmente como resultado de contratos feitos com companhias de transportes fluviaes allemãs. Esse numero augmentar-se-ha com a conclusão da Estrada de Ferro do Norte e o desenvolvimento ainda do Departamento de Verapaz que naturalmente seguirá á conclusão desta obra. Por muitos annos os portos de São José, Champerico e Ocós no Pacifico tem sido visitados pelos vapores das linhas "Kosmos" e "Hamburg-Pacific," chamada Kirsten, os quaes tocam nos principaes portos da America do Sul e America Central e até no porto de São Benito, Mexico.

A linha Kirsten recebeu do Governo de Guatemala, até ha pouco tempo, uma subvenção de 1,000 pesos por vapor. Identica subvenção foi offerecida, ha muito tempo, á linha Kosmos, mas essa companhia, não querendo estar em obrigações, recusou a subvenção e não perdeu privilegios como resultado dessa acção. Essas duas linhas foram consolidadas em 1898 e agora funcionam sob o titulo de "Kosmos Line." Ha grande numero de navios no serviço desta linha. No anno de 1896, 23 vapores pertencentes ás duas linhas tocaram nos tres portos do Pacifico de Guatemala. Esses vapores levam cargas de mercadorias estrangeiras e sahem com carregamentos de café, as quaes chegam a Hamburgo mais tarde por umas semanas do que chegariam por via de Panama.

Por isso é que os carregamentos transportados pela linha allemã não teem sido tão grandes como deveriam ser. Ultimamente teem-se feito esforços por meio da nomeação de novos agentes e por mudanças nas datas de sahida de vapores e modificações na tarifa dos fretes, afim de obter maior porção deste commercio. No anno de 1898, 120,000 *centners* de café foram levados nos vapores da linha Kosmos—isto é, 20 por cento da exportação total. O transporte de passageiros e navegação costeira são insignificantes.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIA.

Nesta secção do Boletim Mensal se tratará dos livros e folhetos enviados á Secretaria das Republicas Americanas que se referem a assumptos de interesse aos paizes da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

Um dos relatorios mais importantes que tem sido enviado ao Congresso pelo Secretario da Agricultura dos Estados Unidos versa sobre investigações agricolas feitas na Alaska. Essas investigações revelam acerca daquella vasta região septentrional factos sorprendentes para os que tem o costume de consideral-a como um pais cuberto quasi sempre de gelo e que não tem mais merito que o de produzir ouro, pelles e pescado. Esta publicação demonstra que Alaska encerra grandes recursos, os que, uma vez desenvolvidos, poderiam sustentar uma população mais grande que a de Finlandia e fazer daquella península um estado muito prospero. O autor do relatorio, o Professor C. C. GEORGESON, a cujo cargo estava a investigação, trouxe a Washington 11 amostras diferentes de trigo de primavera, 11 diferentes classes de cevada e aveia, assim como de centeio, trigo mourisco e linho.

Diz tambem o relatorio que trifolio vermelho floresce durante todo o inverno em Sitka e que se desenvolve admiravelmente e que outro tanto succede com varias plantas uteis para forragem. Todos os legumes de uso mais commum se dão perfeitamente. A relação que o superintendente da Alaska Commercial Company faz relativamente a sua experiencia na criação de gado em Kadiak revela que essa industria será de grande importancia no futuro para o desenvolvimento do territorio. O Governo dos Estados Unidos tem reservado terrenos para estações agricolas experimentaes em Sitka, Kadiak e Cook Inlet. Uma repartição central, contendo um laboratorio, bibliotheca, etc., foi erigida em Sitka, onde se faz a maior parte do trabalho scientifico. Por falta de sufficientes fundos, nada se tem emprendido todavia no interior de Alaska, mas se trata de estabelecer, pelo menos, uma estação de experiencia em algum ponto do rio Yukon.

“Education in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines,” por R. L. PACKARD (United States Bureau of Education, Washington, 1899). Este folheto, que é realmente o capitulo XX do relatorio do Commisario de Educação dos Estados Unidos para 1897-98, trata deste importante assumpto no desenvolvimento das ditas ilhas e contem estatisticas relativas ás escolas de Cuba e Porto Rico. Contem tambem uma relação historica sobre as relações de Hespanha e suas colonias e uma noticia sobre a origem e desenvolvimento da tendencia separatista, tomada de uma autoridade allemã. Assim mesmo da historia do movimento litterario e scientifico de Cuba, desde um ponto de vista cubano, e falla dos cursos na Universidade de Habana e outras instituições.

Cita-se a opinião de autoridades competentes sobre o estado da educação em diferentes epochas até 1890.

Os habitantes das Philippinas são muito differentes dos de Cuba e Porto Rico. Naquelle archipelago se fallam como 30 linguas e dialectos e a população compõe-se principalmente de naturaes do paiz. Na obra em referencia, ao mencionar o que se tem feito em materia de educação, se faz justiça ao trabalho dos frades, referindo-se aos quaes, o escriptor se exprime assim: “As queixas que agora se apresentam contra elles não deveriam fazer-nos esquecer os serviços que em tempos primitivos prestaram aos naturaes e á civilização.” A lista de livros consultados para a preparação do relatorio de Mr. PACKARD é uma excellente bibliographia das differentes ilhas.

“Education in the United States” (Instrucção nos Estados Unidos) é o titulo de uma obra em dous volumes que tem sido compilada e publicada pelo Professor NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER para ser exhibida na secção de educação na Exposição de Pariz. A obra contem 19 monographias preparadas por especialistas eminentes, as quaes no seu conjunto, dão uma idea completa do desenvolvimento da educação nos Estados Unidos. Propõe-se apresentar exemplares desta obra elegantemente encadernados aos governos das principaes nações, ás bibliothecas publicas e instituições de instrucção do mundo. O publico terá oportunidade para comprar exemplares desta obra por um preço modico. Entre os collaboradores desta obra figuram o Sr. Dr. WILLIAM T. HARRIS, Commissario americano de Instrucção; o Sr. ANDREW FLEMING, professor de latim na Universidade de Princeton; o Dr. ANDREW SLOAN DRAPER, presidente da Universidade de Illinois; o Sr. T. C. MENDENHALL, presidente do Instituto Technologico de Worcester, Massachusetts, e o Sr. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, director do Instituto de Tuskegee.

A “Railway Gazette,” em seu numero correspondente ao mez de Fevereiro, 1900, dá um resumo interessante de vias ferreas construidas nos Estados Unidos, Canadá, e Mexico, no anno de 1899. Segundo as estatisticas da “Gazette,” foram construidas, no anno passado, nos Estados Unidos, 4,569 milhas de vias ferreas por 284 companhias; no Canadá, 656 milhas por 19 companhias, e no Mexico, 267 milhas por 10 companhias. Esses algarismos accusam um augmento consideravel sobre os de 1898, em cada um desses paizes. Em 1898, foram construidas nos Estados Unidos, 3,265 milhas; no Canadá, 507 milhas, e no Mexico, 495 milhas. Nos quatro annos anteriores, foram construidas nos Estados Unidos, na média, sómente 2,000 milhas de estradas de ferro por anno. O numero de milhas de linhas construidas em 1899 é superior ao de qualquer anno anterior desde o de 1890, anno em que attingiu a 5,329 milhas. O maior numero de milhas construidas foi no anno de 1887, quando subiu a 12,878 milhas.

A Secretaria da Agricultura dos Estados Unidos publicou ultimamente um folheto, que é o quarto numero de uma nova serie na Secção de Entomologia. Este folheto contem varios artigos curtos e notas, e é intitulado “Some Miscellaneous Results of the Work of the Division of Entomology.” Entre os assumptos de que trata figuram o “kissing bug” (*Melanolestes picipes* e *Reduvires personatus*), que causou tanto medo nos Estados Unidos em 1899; o insecto conhecido com o nome de “bronze apple tree weevil” (*Magdalis aenesi* Lec.); insectos com escamas levados nas fructas que se exportam para a Allemanha; noticias sobre uma collecção de insectos com escama que se encontram na ilha de Porto Rico; o denominado “cotton stainer” do Peru, e notas relativas ao gafanhoto na Republica Argentina e em Lourenço Marquez.

Outro factor figura no systema de educação agricola dos Estados Unidos. Cursos de leitura sobre assumptos agricolas constituem um factor importante na divulgação de conhecimentos agricolas entre os cultivadores. De um folheto publicado pela Secretaria da Agricultura em Washington, parece que esta Secretaria dá seu apoio a esse novo factor. Essa publicação, intitulada “Farmers’ Reading Courses,” é um compendio de um artigo escripto pelo Professor L. H. BAILEY e dá uma descripção dos principaes pontos do plano a ser seguido nos diversos estados. O folheto contem uma lista de publicações sobre agricultura recommendadas para o uso dos agricultores. A Secretaria da Agricultura tem publicado um numero de boletins que tratam de maneira clara e concisa sobre materias agricolas e os quaes se distribuem gratis.

“The Anglo-Boer Conflict, its History and its Cost,” é o titulo de um livro por ALLEYNE IRELAND (Small, Maynard & Co., Boston, 1900). “O objecto que me tenho proposto,” diz Mr. IRELAND no prefacio de sua obra, “é dar uma relação breve e exacta dos acontecimentos que tem sido causa da guerra, para o uso daquelles que, apesar de que sentem grande interesse na situação, não podem ler todo o que se tem dito por muitos escriptores sobre este assumpto e por extensos documentos officiaes.” A imprensa tem fallado favoravelmente do trabalho de Mr. IRELAND.

As paginas avulsas dos relatorios consulares dos Estados Unidos, publicadas a 27 de Fevereiro de 1900, estão dedicadas principalmente á industria de cassave na America latina. Este producto é obtido da mandioca. Conhecem-se duas plantas desta classe, uma amarga e a outra doce. Os naturaes de Guatemala fazem da mandioca pão e amido. Em Honduras sómente a empregam para sacar della amido. O alimento que se saca deste raiz é altamente nutritivo e bem pode competir com as batatas como substancia alimenticia.



# BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

## BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

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VOL. VIII.

MARS 1900.

No. 3.

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### L'INDUSTRIE DU TISSAGE DE LA SOIE AUX ÉTATS-UNIS.

A la réunion de l'Association des Fabricants de Soiries qui a eu lieu dans la ville de New-York, le 8 février 1900, lecture a été faite des statistiques de l'année relatives à cette industrie. Elles révèlent que l'industrie de la soie aux États-Unis a fait des progrès remarquables et que les affaires de 1899 ont surpassé celles de 1898. Le rapport de l'année montre aussi que le prix de la soie écrue a augmenté, et quoique la quantité importée en 1899 ait été seulement un petit peu plus grande que celle de 1897, la différence dans la valeur portée sur les factures a été plus considérable. En 1899, 73,667 balles ont été importées au lieu de 72,496 balles en 1897; la valeur cependant a augmenté en 1899 de \$30,636,009 à \$41,195,209; le prix moyen par livre pour les deux années sus-nommées étant respectivement \$3 et \$4.15. Afin de convertir le matériel écru en articles différents qui sont envoyés sur les marchés, les manufactures de soieries opèrent dans 19 États, ayant chacun une ou plusieurs fabriques.

Les principales manufactures sont situées dans les États de New-Jersey et Pennsylvanie, où 47,000 ouvriers sont employés. En 1899, les salaires que le premier État a payé aux ouvriers se sont montés à \$10,650,789, tandis que le dernier État a payé, pendant la même année, \$4,866,851. Les personnes employées comprennent depuis les journaliers ordinaires jusqu'aux experts en soieries. La proportion des femmes employées comme ouvrières est de 45 pour cent dans le New-Jersey et de 73 pour cent dans la Pennsylvanie.

Pendant l'année 1899 de nouvelles soieries ont été établies dans les États suivant: New-Jersey, 21; Pennsylvanie, 21; New-York, 7;

Rhode Island et Connecticut, 3 chacun; la Caroline du Nord, 2; Delaware, Michigan, Virginie et Wisconsin, 1 chacun.

On a démontré que les Etats-Unis pouvaient produire la soie écrue, mais on a aussi prouvé que, étant donné le prix du travail qui est plus élevé aux Etats-Unis que dans les pays d'où vient la plus grande quantité de ce produit, cette industrie ne pouvait pas devenir profitable. La plus grande partie de la soie écrue importée, vient de Chine, du Japon et d'Italie. La soie dévidée est mise en écheveau ou en peloton, et alors en paquets pesant environ cinq livres chacun dont on fait ensuite des ballots pour l'expédition. Les balles que l'on reçoit de Chine et du Japon pèsent environ 150 livres chacune, tandis que celles provenant d'Italie ont un poids moyen de 250 livres. Une classe spéciale de soie vient de Canton en balles, chacune pesant environ 100 livres. La soie italienne a généralement une couleur jaunâtre, tandis que celle de la Chine et du Japon est ordinairement blanche. La qualité de la soie dépend de la fabrique ou de la filature d'où elle provient. Quand le matériel arrive aux Etats-Unis, les fabriques n'ont rien à faire qu'à organsiner la soie, c'est-à-dire tordre ensemble plusieurs brins de soie pour en faire de l'organsin et le traiter ensuite comme n'importe quel tissu fait au métier.

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## PRODUCTION DES ORANGES EN CALIFORNIE.

Dans un article intéressant au sujet de la production des oranges dans l'Etat de la Californie, le "San Francisco Argonaut" fait remarquer que les orangeries sont en plein rapport en janvier. Pendant ce mois une grande animation règne dans les vergers du sud de la Californie qui sont remplis de cueilleurs, et le fruit est entassé dans des milliers de wagons qui sont dirigés sur les marchés de l'est. On dit que le rendement cette année a été le plus grand qui ait jamais été constaté dans l'histoire de cette industrie, qu'il y a eu une plus grande quantité de demandes, et que les oranges se sont vendues à un prix beaucoup plus élevé. L'estimation pour la saison de 1899-1900 est de 14,000 à 14,500 charges de wagons, au lieu de 13,000 pour l'année précédente. Ces chiffres ne comprennent pas la production des régions du nord qui augmenterait aisément le rendement de 500 wagons. En 1890 la production entière de l'Etat était 4,016 wagons et les chiffres ont augmenté tous les ans presque sans exception. On estime que la récolte de cette année vaut, en compte rond, \$4,600,000 dont \$2,000,000 iront aux compagnies de transport.

Il n'est pas rare pour les orangistes de réaliser un bénéfice net de \$150 par acre, tandis que les vieux vergers rapportent souvent un profit de \$350 à \$375 par acre. Dans les principales régions de l'Etat

qui produisent des oranges il y a actuellement 48,000 acres d'orangeries. Dans le sud de la Californie il y a 2,072,400 orangers qui produisent des fruits; quant à ceux qui n'en ont pas encore donné, ils se chiffrent à 1,227,300; mais comme ces derniers en produiront bientôt, on prédit que le rendement se montera à 27,000 wagons valant \$10,000,000. Le capital qui a déjà été placé dans les orangeries, dans cet Etat, est d'environ \$44,000,000. Quoique ce soit les moines de la Mission Saint-Gabriel qui, en 1804, plantèrent les premières orangeries, l'industrie actuelle est nouvelle. John Wolfskill planta la première orangerie en Californie en 1870. La valeur des terres propres à la culture des orangers a augmenté de \$30 à \$600 l'acre, et un seul arbre que l'on pouvait jadis se procurer pour 10 cents coûte aujourd'hui \$1.60. On a dû faire des expériences très coûteuses pour arriver à donner à cette industrie son développement actuel. Des fortunes ont été englouties, mais d'un autre côté, d'autres ont été faites et, par suite de l'expérience acquise, l'industrie a été établie sur des bases solides, conséquemment elle se développera rapidement.

Le journal "Southern California Fruit Growers' Exchange" annonce qu'on emploiera une nouvelle méthode pour préparer les oranges pour le marché, système qui a déjà été expérimenté l'année dernière. L'idée est de fumiger les oranges au moyen de certains gaz, avant de les expédier, afin de tuer les fungus qui causent un déchet. La méthode employée n'est pas, bien entendu, connue du public, mais il est probable que les oranges subiront l'opération, en bloc, avant d'être emballées. La composition des gaz employés est aussi un secret.

L'inventeur dit que le déchet des oranges est dû à un fungus vert, tandis que celui des citrons est occasionné par deux fungus, le noir et le vert. L'invention ne détruit pas le fungus noir, conséquemment le système est considéré comme imparfait en ce qui concerne les citrons. Les expéditions tentatives qui ont été faites de Los Angeles, Californie, à la ville de Kansas, Missouri, au mois de juillet 1899, en deux wagons envoyés ensemble, ont donné les résultats suivants: déchet du fruit naturel, non rafraîchi, ou qui n'a subi aucun traitement, 8.9 pour cent; fruit rafraîchi, 2 pour cent; fruit fumigé, 1.8 pour cent.

On rapporte que les frais du nouveau traitement sont bien moindres que ceux de la réfrigération, pendant le voyage, et on croit que le dernier système sera presque complètement abandonné, quant aux oranges. Si le nouveau procédé réussit, l'économie réalisée dans les expéditions d'oranges sera énorme. Actuellement, les frais pour la réfrigération, du point d'embarquement aux marchés de l'est, se montent à 80 ou 90 dollars pour chaque wagon.

## RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

### EXPOSITION DE LAITERIE À BUENOS AYRES.

Une exposition de vaches laitières, de produits de la laiterie et de machines et appareils employés pour l'élaboration de ces produits, aura lieu à Buenos Ayres dans le courant du mois de mai prochain.

Les machines, appareils, etc., venant de l'étranger et destinés à l'exposition, entreront en franchise de douanes et n'auront pas à acquitter les frais de transport du port aux bâtiments de l'exposition.

La laiterie prend un développement rapide dans la République Argentine, et les fabricants de machines et appareils employés dans cette industrie auraient, semble-t-il, intérêt à participer à l'exposition dont il s'agit.

Les récompenses consisteront en primes, diplômes et médailles.

### EXPORTATION DES GRAINS ET GRAINES.

La presse de Buenos Ayres publie le relevé suivant de l'exportation de blé, de maïs et de graine de lin pendant l'année 1899:

	Tonnes.
Blé.....	1, 780, 000
Maïs .....	1, 222, 000
Graine de lin.....	212, 000

Le prix moyen payé pour les produits de la récolte 1898-99 a été, pour le blé, de 5 piastres-papier les 100 kilogrammes; pour le maïs de 22.25 piastres et pour la graine de lin, de 9 piastres les 100 kilogrammes.

Sur la base de ces prix, l'exportation de ces grains représente les valeurs suivantes:

	Piastres-papier.
Blé.....	89, 000, 000
Maïs .....	28, 050, 000
Graine de lin .....	19, 080, 000
Total .....	136, 130, 000

Le cours de l'or calculé à 227.27, la somme ci-dessus représente 60,000,000 piastres-or, ou 300,000,000 francs.

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## BRÉSIL.

### NOUVELLE FIBRE TEXTILE.

Un correspondant du "Jornal do Commercio," de Rio de Janeiro, attire l'attention sur la fibre de la "guaxima" qui croît partout à l'état sauvage, mais qu'on trouve en plus grandes quantités dans les terres basses près de la mer. On croit que cette fibre pourrait par-

faitement remplacer le jute et former la base d'une importante industrie. Les fils sont longs et très forts; ils peuvent résister à l'action de l'eau, les pêcheurs de la côte s'en servent pour leurs filets qui durent pendant des années si on les trempe dans une teinture d'écorce de pistachier (aroùra). Le traitement de la fibre de la guaxima n'exige pas une longue macération comme le jute, il suffit de l'immerger pendant quelques jours dans l'eau courante pour pouvoir enlever à la main l'écorce verte; on expose ensuite les tiges au soleil pour faire sécher la partie ligneuse; celle-ci se contracte et on sépare alors facilement l'écorce fibreuse.

#### NOUVEL ARBRE À CAOUTCHOUC.

D'après le "Diario de Noticias de Bahia," on vient de découvrir un nouvel arbre à caoutchouc qui paraît être supérieur à tous ceux de cette classe. Il est connu sous le nom de "pecambira" et se fait remarquer par l'abondance et la qualité supérieure de sa gomme.

#### EXPORTATIONS DE "HERBA MATÉ."

L'Etat de Paraná exporte annuellement aux Républiques de l'Amérique du Sud 20,000,000 kilogrammes d'"herba maté," dont la valeur se monte à 6,000,000 milreis, ou environ \$960,000 au cours actuel de la Bourse.

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### ÉQUATEUR.

#### SITUATION ÉCONOMIQUE PENDANT L'ANNÉE 1899.

Le commerce de la République de l'Equateur pendant l'année 1899 s'est développé d'une manière prodigieuse; les exportations ont augmenté dans des proportions considérables, et cela est dû spécialement à l'agriculture dont les produits, le cacao principalement, ont eu un meilleur rendement. Le Gouvernement du Général ALFARO a donné une grande impulsion aux voies de communication. On travaille activement au chemin du Pailon et au chemin de Manabi, afin de relier la capitale avec la côte, et le chemin de fer de Chimbo à Quito occupe actuellement un millier de travailleurs.

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### ETATS-UNIS.

#### RECETTES ET DÉPENSES POUR LE MOIS DE FÉVRIER 1900.

Le rapport comparatif des recettes et des dépenses du Gouvernement montre que le total des recettes pendant le mois de février s'est élevé à \$45,631,265, et que celui des dépenses s'est monté à \$37,738,472, laissant

un excédent de recettes pour le mois de \$7,892,793. Les recettes douanières se sont montées à \$19,882,252, soit un gain sur le mois de février 1889 de près de \$3,000,000; les impôts de l'intérieur se sont élevés à \$20,767.43, soit une augmentation d'environ \$1,500,000; les recettes diverses ont produit \$4,981.574, soit une augmentation de \$3,000,000 environ. Les dépenses imputées au Ministère de la Guerre se sont montées à \$9,436,083, soit une diminution de près de \$6,000,000 comparées avec celles du mois de février 1899; les dépenses imputées au Ministère de la Marine se sont chiffrées à la somme de \$4,045,724, soit une diminution de \$350,000. Pendant les 8 mois passés, les recettes ont excédé les dépenses de \$37,763,000.

#### RAPPORT OFFICIEL SUR LA RÉCOLTE.

Le rapport du mois de mars du statisticien du Ministère de l'Agriculture montre que la quantité de blé qui restait entre les mains des agriculteurs le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1900 se montait à 158,700,000 boisseaux environ, ou 29 pour cent de la récolte de l'année dernière, contre 198,000,000 boisseaux, ou 29.3 pour cent de la récolte de 1898 en main le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1899.

Le maïs qui se trouve entre les mains des fermiers est estimé à 773,700,000 boisseaux, ou 37.2 pour cent de la récolte de l'année dernière, contre 800,500,000 boisseaux, ou 41.6 pour cent de la récolte de 1898 en main le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1899. La proportion de la récolte totale de l'année dernière exportée des Etats-Unis aux pays étrangers est estimée à 16.8 pour cent, ou environ 348,000,000 boisseaux. La proportion de la récolte totale de l'année dernière pouvant être vendue est estimée à 86.9 pour cent. La quantité d'avoine est estimée être de 290,900,000 boisseaux environ, ou 36.5 pour cent de la récolte de l'année dernière qui est encore entre les mains des fermiers, contre 283,000,000 boisseaux, ou 38.7 pour cent de la récolte de 1898 en main le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1899.

#### CONDITION DE LA RÉCOLTE DU BLÉ.

Le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1900, le Bureau météorologique des Etats-Unis, dans son rapport mensuel sur la condition du temps, fait remarquer, en ce qui concerne la récolte, que l'absence de neige, pendant la plus grande partie du mois dans les Etats qui produisent la plus grande quantité du blé d'hiver, ainsi que l'alternative de gelée et de dégel, ont laissé le blé à la fin de février dans des conditions moins favorables qu'à la fin du mois précédent. La condition de la récolte à la fin du mois de février est cependant généralement satisfaisante dans la plupart des sections, à l'exception des Etats du centre, l'Ohio, le Michigan et quelques parties de l'Indiana, du Missouri et du Kansas. D'après les rapports reçus du Michigan et de l'Ohio, le froid rigoureux de l'hiver aurait endommagé

le blé, indiquant que la condition est plus défavorable qu'elle ne l'a été pendant la saison. Sur la côte nord du Pacifique, des rapports favorables sont reçus de Washington, de l'Orégon et du nord et du centre de la Californie, quoique cependant la récolte dans l'est de Washington ait souffert à cause du froid intense de la fin du mois. Dans le sud de la Californie, où il y a eu une absence presque complète de pluie, la récolte, spécialement celle du blé semé de bonne heure, souffre beaucoup de la sécheresse.

#### **BASSINS DE RADOUB DU GOUVERNEMENT.**

On est en train de construire à Boston et à Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, deux bassins immenses en pierre et à Mare Island, Californie, un bassin en bois. En dehors de ces travaux des soumissions ont été décachetées le 21 octobre 1899 pour la construction d'un quatrième bassin pour l'arsenal de la marine à League Island, Philadelphie. Ce dernier bassin permettra à tous les navires, même aux plus grands vaisseaux de guerre, venant de l'Atlantique ou du golfe du Mexique, depuis le Maine jusqu'au Texas, d'être radoubés avec facilité. Les bassins du Gouvernement sont ou seront à Portsmouth, Boston, New-York (3), League Island (3), Norfolk, Newport News (2, commerciaux), Port Royal, Key West, Floride (bassin à flot), et Algiers, Louisiana). Antérieurement à la guerre avec l'Espagne, les Etats-Unis n'avaient pas de facilités de ce genre, et jusqu'à la fin de ce conflit il n'existait aucun bassin où les plus grands vaisseaux de guerre pussent entrer. Il n'y a que deux bassins où ces vaisseaux puissent entrer avec sécurité, mais ils sont très éloignés l'un de l'autre et situés dans des stations différentes; l'un à New-York et l'autre à Puget Sound, Oregon. Le bassin de Port Royal, Caroline du Sud, fut construit et achevé avant ces deux derniers, mais le manque d'eau ne permettait pas d'y loger les grands vaisseaux jusqu'au mois de février 1900, quand les travaux de dragage furent terminés.

#### **AUGMENTATION DE LA PRODUCTION DE LA PISTACHE DE TERRE OU CACAHUATE (ARACHIDE HYPOGÉE).**

Le rendement des cacahuates aux Etats-Unis constitue seulement une petite portion de la récolte du monde, l'exportation annuelle de ce produit de l'Afrique et de l'Inde en Europe étant de 400,000,000 livres environ, dont la moitié va à Marseille, où on en fait de l'huile. En 1898 les Etats-Unis ont importé de l'Afrique du Sud une petite quantité de cacahuates, mais d'un autre côté en ont exporté des quantités considérables en Europe, au Mexique et ailleurs. Les cacahuates consommées par le peuple des Etats-Unis ne sont pas classées parmi les principaux produits alimentaires, mais sont considérées comme un luxe. On estime que la récolte de 1899 a dépassé celle de 1898

d'environ 1,000,000 de boisseaux. Les experts croient que le rendement total était 4,500,000 boisseaux de 22 livres chacun, montant à \$5,000,000.

Les Etats de la Caroline du Nord, de Tennessee et de Virginie ont produit la majeure partie de la récolte. La cacahuete typique des Etats-Unis provient d'une espèce de plante grimpante. Ces plantes sont grandes et ont des branches qui s'étendent à plate terre, et tout le long desquelles poussent des amandes renfermés dans de larges gousses blanches. On en cultive d'autres variétés dont les branches poussent verticalement comme des buissons. Sur les marchés se trouve des pistaches de terre connues sous le nom de cacahuates espagnoles, dont font principalement usage les confiseurs. Ces dernières originaires d'Espagne sont maintenant cultivées dans le Tennessee et la Virginie, où elles sont produites en très grandes quantités. La récolte de cette variété produit annuellement 150,000 sacs de 110 livres chacun.

C'est seulement depuis les 20 dernières années que les cacahuates ont été écalées au moyen de machines. Par suite de l'augmentation dans la production, on a dû inventer des machines pour remplacer les méthodes anciennes qui étaient trop lentes, et l'expérience a démontré que la consommation a toujours été en rapport avec l'augmentation de l'approvisionnement occasionné par les machines perfectionnées. Il existe actuellement dans le pays 20 manufactures pour les cacahuates, qui sont situées principalement dans les sections où ce fruit est cultivé. Le capital requis pour l'établissement d'une de ces fabriques est comparativement petit. Il existe à Waverley, Tennessee, une fabrique où il passe journellement 5 tonnes de cacahuates. Cette fabrique produit chaque jour 235 gallons d'huile raffinée, vendus au prix de \$1 le gallon; 175 gallons d'huile brute à 50 cents le gallon; 3,680 livres de farine raffinée et grossière à deux cents et 3,300 livres de fourrage à 60 cents les 100 livres, ce qui fait que le total général des recettes dépasse journellement la somme de \$415.

Un grand cultivateur de cacahuates ne se donne pas la peine de séparer les gousses de la tige et de la terre quand il a déterré sa récolte, mais envoie le tout à la manufacture. Là elles sont mises dans un trémie et passent ensuite dans un cylindre tournant qui les nettoie par le frottement, les débarrassant ainsi des feuilles et des tiges qui disparaissent par un tuyau d'aspiration. Les amandes restent dans le cylindre et passent ensuite sur une table à jour tournante dont les planchettes reposent sur un canevas où les négresses recueillent celles de première qualité appelées "fancy." Le restant passe alors sur une autre table tournante du même genre où on recueille la seconde qualité que l'on enferme dans des sacs marqués "extra." Deux autres qualités sont alors assorties, l'une qui est vendue aux marchands, l'autre aux confiseurs.



### **CONVENTION DE L'ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES MANUFACTURIERS.**

La cinquième convention annuelle de l'Association nationale des manufacturiers aura lieu dans la ville de Boston les 24, 25 et 26 avril 1900. On espère que cette réunion sera la plus grande qui ait jamais eu lieu dans aucune partie du monde. Des programmes qui ressemblent exactement à ceux des conventions précédentes ont été préparés pour les sessions du matin et de l'après-midi pour chacun des jours sus-nommés. Le premier soir sera consacré à l'amusement tandis que pendant le deuxième on discutera les nombreux sujets qui intéressent l'éducation et particulièrement ceux qui touchent de près aux manufactures et aux intérêts commerciaux. Le soir de la clôture, les exercices prendront la forme d'une immense convention publique, à laquelle assisteront, on l'espère, le Président McKINLEY et quelques orateurs distingués qui prononceront de courtes allocutions.

L'Association des manufacturiers de cotonnades de la Nouvelle Angleterre espère aussi se rendre à Boston pour sa réunion semi-annuelle qui aura lieu les 25 et 26 avril, et ce fait a suggéré l'idée d'assembler aux mêmes dates l'Association nationale des manufactures de laine, celle des manufactures de chaussures et de cuirs ainsi que d'autres organisations qui ont leurs intérêts dans cette ville, afin de faire une grande convention des différents intérêts manufacturiers du pays.

### **SUPPRESSION DES RÈGLEMENTS SÉVÈRES POUR LES NAVIRES CHARGÉS DE CAFÉ.**

Le 4 mars 1900, le Directeur de la santé du port de New York a notifié les agents et les armateurs de vaisseaux arrivant de Santos, qu'à partir du 5 mars les règles sévères imposées aux vaisseaux de ce port seraient supprimées. A l'avenir, tous les navires arrivant de Santos pourront se rendre directement à leurs quais de débarquement, immédiatement après l'inspection et la désinfection ordinaires. L'annulation de ces règlements qui causaient un délai et des dépenses considérables dans les frais d'allège de la cargaison a été accueillie avec une très grande satisfaction par les marchands et les consignataires. On mande de Santos qu'aucun cas de peste n'a existé dans cette ville pendant les trente jours qui ont précédé le 4 mars.

### **PRODUCTION DU CHANVRE DES ILES PHILIPPINES.**

D'après les rapports télégraphiques reçus de Manille le 5 mars, la quantité totale de chanvre reçue de l'intérieur dans les ports des Iles Philippines, pendant la semaine précédente, s'est montée à 60,000 balles, la plus grande qui ait jamais été constatée pour une seule semaine. Les courtiers en chanvre des Etats-Unis déclarent que ces grandes

quantités ne peuvent avoir que peu d'influence sur le prix; car, d'après les rapports précédents, le montant total du chanvre dans les Iles, à l'époque de l'ouverture des ports, ne s'élevait pas à plus de 250,000 balles. De cette quantité, 135,000 balles ont déjà été envoyées sur les marchés, laissant une quantité disponible de 65,000 à 115,000 balles. On prédit que le prix du chanvre cette année ne tombera pas au dessous de 10 cents la livre.

#### **L'INDUSTRIE DE LA CONSTRUCTION DES NAVIRES SUR LES BORDS DES GRANDS LACS.**

D'après le "Iron Age," une activité sans exemple règne dans l'industrie de la construction des navires, sur les bords des Grands Lacs. Trente-sept bateaux à vapeur ayant une capacité de 185,000 tonnes et une force de 45,950 chevaux sont actuellement en voie de construction dans les chantiers de constructions navales des lacs, représentant une dépense estimée à \$9,000,000. Presque tous ces vaisseaux sont en acier et destinés au trafic des marchandises, et la plupart d'entre eux pourront transporter de 6,000 à 9,000 tonnes.

#### **NOUVEL ARTICLE D'EXPORTATION AUX ILES SANDWICH.**

Un nouvel article que San Francisco a exporté récemment en très grande quantité à Honolulu, Hilo et autres ports des Iles Sandwich, est le riz. Cette céréale est cultivée dans l'Etat de la Louisiane. Les premières expéditions eurent lieu quand la peste sévissait dans les Iles et jusqu'au 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1900 on a expédié 28,000 sacs de 162 livres chacun. Jadis, tout le riz qui se consommait à Hawaï autre que celui du pays, provenait du Japon.

#### **PLANTES QUI PRODUISENT DES PIERRES PRÉCIEUSES.**

Un des directeurs du Kew Gardens, Londres, dans une conférence qu'il fit récemment dans un institut de cette ville sur quelques curiosités de la vie des plantes tropicales, fit remarquer que l'on trouvait occasionnellement dans les cocotiers des Iles Philippines des perles qui, comme celles de l'océan, se composaient de carbonate de chaux. Le bambou aussi produit dans ses nœuds une autre pierre précieuse qui a la forme d'une véritable opale.

#### **L'EXPOSITION "PAN AMERICAN" À BUFFALO.**

Les règlements qui régissent les exhibitions à l'Exposition "Pan American," à Buffalo, en 1901, ont été publiés. Les Commissaires du Gouvernement nommés par le Congrès des Etats-Unis ont déjà pris les mesures nécessaires pour comprendre dans l'exposition du pays, celles de Puerto Rico, de Hawaï, et des Iles Philippines. Des mesures sem-

blables seront prises pour faire une magnifique exposition des produits cubains et de ceux des îles voisines. Les unes après les autres, les Colonies Américaines et les nations ont déclaré leur intention d'y être représentées, ce qui donnera aux manufacturiers et aux producteurs les occasions les plus favorables pour resserrer leurs liens d'amitié avec leurs frères des Républiques Américaines et développer ainsi leurs relations commerciales dans toutes les parties de l'hémisphère occidental.

#### **PRODUCTION DU PAPIER.**

Les États-Unis produisent annuellement une valeur de plus de \$100,000,000 de papier. Environ un tiers de ce papier est employé pour les journaux, la proportion pour le papier d'emballage et les livres étant respectivement deux tiers et environ une moitié autant que pour les journaux. Le carton se monte annuellement à 300,000 tonnes. Les constructeurs emploient 60,000 tonnes de papier, et 45,000 tonnes de papier à tapisser les murs sont produites annuellement.

#### **RÉVISION DES LOIS SUR LES IMPÔTS DE PUERTO-RICO.**

Le Ministre de la Guerre des Etats-Unis a prié Mr. le Dr. J. H. HOLLAND, professeur d'économie politique à l'Université Johns Hopkins, à Baltimore, de se rendre à Puerto-Rico, en qualité de commissaire spécial, dans le but de réviser les lois de cette île, relatives aux impôts. Les Directeurs de l'Université ont accordé un congé à Mr. le Professeur HOLLAND, qui entrera en fonctions aussitôt que les conférences qu'il est en train de faire à l'Université seront terminées. En 1887, le Dr. HOLLAND était Secrétaire de la Conférence Monétaire de Bruxelles et a la réputation d'être très versé dans les questions financières.

#### **PROSPÉRITÉ INDUSTRIELLE AU MICHIGAN.**

Le Rapport du Directeur des Travaux Publics du Michigan montre que sur 4,438 fabriques qui ont été inspectées, 301 seulement chômaient. Ces fabriques emploient 154,553 ouvriers, dont les salaires se montent journellement à \$213,904. Près de 75 pour cent de ces fabriques rapportent une augmentation dans les affaires, la moyenne étant 18 pour cent sur l'année 1898. Pendant l'année 1899 on a construit 201 nouvelles fabriques qui ont coûté la somme totale de \$5,000,000.

#### **BUREAU INTERNATIONAL D'AGRICULTURE.**

MR. J. J. S. BROOMHALL du "Corn Trade News," de Liverpool, Angleterre, est arrivé aux Etats-Unis le 3 mars 1900 avec la mission d'organiser un Bureau International d'Agriculture. MR. BROOMHALL

est reconnu comme un des principaux experts des marchés aux grains du monde. Dans une entrevue donnée à la presse, il s'exprima comme suit au sujet de son projet: "l'Allemagne et l'Autriche se proposent d'organiser un Bureau International d'Agriculture et de Récoltes, et je viens pour discuter avec les membres de la Chambre Nationale de Commerce les moyens pour obtenir la coopération des Etats-Unis dans cette affaire importante. J'espère pouvoir intéresser tous les principaux pays agricoles afin que les statistiques et les renseignements sur les ressources agricoles et commerciales soient fournis exactement et à un point de vue scientifique. J'ai l'intention de visiter les principales bourses commerciales des Etats-Unis, je me rendrai ensuite en France et dans les autres pays européens, et probablement dans toutes les parties du monde dans l'intérêt du bureau projeté."

#### **COLLECTIONS ETHNOLOGIQUES DANS LES PHILIPPINES.**

Mr. le Col. F. F. HILDER du Bureau d'Ethnologie Américaine a été délégué récemment comme agent spécial de la commission chargée de diriger l'Exposition "Pan American" de Buffalo pour visiter les Iles Philippines et y faire des collections scientifiques et principalement ethnologiques. Le Colonel HILDER a l'intention de parcourir le plus d'îles possible avant le commencement de la saison pluvieuse et de faire des collections illustrant les industries, les mœurs, les coutumes et les conditions sociales des tribus sauvages et autres qui s'y sont colonisées.

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### **MEXIQUE.**

#### **STATION MÉTÉOROLOGIQUE DES ÉTATS-UNIS AU MEXIQUE.**

Un télégramme de Coatzacoalcos, Mexique, dit que M. le Docteur L. M. CLINE de l'Observatoire des Etats-Unis, qui a établi des stations météorologiques à Tampico, Vera-Cruz et Coatzacoalcos, terminera ses travaux à Progreso, où une autre station sera installée. Ce nouvel observatoire permettra de prévenir les navires tout le long de l'Atlantique, longtemps avant leur arrivée, de l'approche des orages qui se forment dans le golfe et protégera ainsi la navigation côtière du Mexique et des Etats-Unis.

#### **PLACERS DANS L'ÉTAT DE CHIHUAHUA.**

Les placers d'or de la vallée du Concho (Etat de Chihuahua) attirent en ce moment l'attention des capitalistes. De nombreux lots ont été récemment dénoncés. Une nouvelle compagnie s'organise à Chihuahua pour travailler sur la haute rivière. Les placers de Santo Domingo, considérés comme les plus riches de cette région, sont situés à 120 kilomètres de Chihuahua.

**QUELQUES CHIFFRES.**

On évalue à cinquante millions de piastres le chiffre total des capitaux américains engagés dans des entreprises minières au Mexique durant l'année 1899.

D'après le "Chihuahua Enterprise," un des plus longs chemins de fer du monde sera celui que l'on s'apprête à construire au Mexique et qui doit relier les Etats de Yucatan, Chiapas, Tabasco, et Campêche. Cette voie aura 409 milles de long et coûtera approximativement \$15,000,000.

**NOUVELLE LIGNE DE VAPEURS.**

Une compagnie de navigation Anglo-Chilienne vient d'inaugurer une nouvelle ligne de bateaux à vapeurs. Les vapeurs toucheront aux ports mexicains de la côte du Pacifique et à ceux des autres Républiques du centre et du sud de l'Amérique.

**ACHAT D'UNE MINE.**

Le syndicat minier anglais, à la tête duquel se trouve MM. ROTHSCHILDS, vient de se rendre acquéreur de la mine Somara, précédemment propriété de Mr. CHARLES LANE. Cette mine a été payée \$1,500,000.

**TRAITEMENT SÉROTHÉRAPIQUE DE LA FIÈVRE JAUNE.**

D'après une correspondance de Merida (Yucatan) au "Mundo," il paraîtrait que les injections d'une simple solution de sel marin dans l'eau pure ont donné de bons résultats dans le traitement de la fièvre jaune. Tous les malades auxquels ces injections ont été appliquées, même ceux qui se trouvaient déjà dans la période des vomissements noirs, se sont rétablis. Cette nouvelle est très importante, et il est à souhaiter que des expériences ultérieures viennent la confirmer.

**CONTRAT DE COLONISATION.**

Le Ministère de Fomento vient de signer, avec MM. ENRIQUE SARDONETA et ALEXANDRE LEGLER, un contrat donnant à ces derniers la concession de terrains nationaux situés dans l'Etat de Chiapas. Les concessionnaires devront installer dans ces terrains deux cents familles de nationalités européennes.

**NOUVEAU CHEMIN DE FER.**

Une compagnie vient de se former à Albany (capitale de l'Etat de New-York) pour construire au Mexique un chemin de fer qui portera le nom de "Ferrocarril Mineral Mexicano" et reliera Monterrey à la région minière de San Pedro (Nuevo-Leon) où sont situées les mines appartenant à un capitaliste de Monterrey, M. MAIZ.

## PEROU.

## MANIFESTES DE DOUANE.

En vertu d'une décision du Ministre des Finances du Pérou en date du 29 novembre 1899, la rectification des manifestes détaillés devra avoir lieu dans le délai de trente jours, à partir de la présentation desdits manifestes. Passé ce délai, la rectification ne sera admise que sur la preuve donnée par écrit devant la douane des causes d'erreur. Dans ce cas, le procès-verbal de rectification sera annexé au manifeste rectifié.

## RÉGION NON PLUVIEUSE.

C'est dans la région où se trouve la ville de Payta qu'il pleut le moins. En février dernier, il y a plu durant vingt-quatre heures, il est vrai, mais c'était la première pluie observée depuis huit ans, la durée moyenne entre deux averses étant de sept ans.

Payta est située par 5 degrés de latitude sud sur la côte. Les brouillards y sont fréquents et la flore est très pauvre; on n'y rencontre que neuf espèces, dont sept sont annuelles. Les graines de ces dernières séjournent souvent sept années dans le sol en attendant la pluie bienfaisante qui doit les faire germer. Malgré l'absence de pluies, les habitants subsistent, grâce à la croissance du coton péruvien à longues racines, qui est lui-même capable de rester sans eau pendant sept ans et qui fournit des récoltes abondantes et avantageuses.

## URUGUAY.

## RECETTES DOUANIÈRES DE L'URUGUAY.

Les recettes douanières de l'Uruguay ont donné, pour le mois de décembre 1899, les résultats ci-après:

	Pesos.
Importation .....	733, 840. 66
Exportation .....	121, 441. 17
Départements: estimation.....	87, 000. 00
Total.....	942, 281. 83

Les recettes de la douane pendant les années 1896, 1897, 1898 et 1899 étaient respectivement: 10,261,829 pesos; 8,548,291 pesos; 9,847,731 pesos et 10,260,098 pesos.

## CRÉATION D'UN MUSÉE COMMERCIAL À MONTÉVIDÉO.

On attache beaucoup d'importance dans le monde commercial espagnol à la création de musées commerciaux dans les principales villes de l'Amérique du Sud. Une institution de ce genre existe déjà à Buenos-Ayres, et la colonie espagnole de Montévidéo est en train d'organiser dans une des rues les plus fréquentées de cette ville un musée commercial qui sera en même temps un dépôt d'échantillons d'articles espagnols.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIE.

Les livres et les brochures qui seront envoyées au Bureau des Républiques Américaines et qui contiendront des sujets ou matières traitant des pays de l'Union internationale des Républiques Américaines, seront mentionnés dans le Bulletin Mensuel sous le titre "Bibliographie."

Un des rapports les plus importants soumis au Congrès par le Ministre de l'Agriculture des Etats Unis traite des investigations agricoles qui ont été faites dans le territoire d'Alaska. Les faits concernant ce vaste territoire du Nord étonnent ceux qui l'ont considéré comme un pays couvert presque entièrement de glace et précieux seulement par l'or, les fourrures et le poisson qu'il produit. Cette publication prouve que Alaska a des moyens latents qui, une fois développés, peuvent soutenir une population plus grande que celle de la Finlande et devenir un Etat prospère. L'auteur du rapport, Mr. le Professeur C. C. GEORGESON, qui était chargé de faire les investigations, a apporté à Washington 11 variétés de blé de mars, 12 variétés d'orge et d'avoine et aussi des variétés de seigle, de blé sarrasin et de lin, des fermes modèles de Sitka et de Kenai.

Le rapport dit que le trèfle est en vie tout le long de l'hiver à Sitka, croît avec abondance et produit des graines qui mûrissent, que les vesces et les autres plantes fourragères sont également d'une belle venue. Tous les légumes ordinaires pourant supporter le froid poussent à la perfection. En ce qui concerne son expérience avec les bestiaux à Kadiak, le surintendant de la Compagnie Commerciale d'Alaska déclare, dans son rapport, qu'il y a des possibilités dans cette industrie qui seront d'une très grande importance dans le développement futur du territoire. La Compagnie d'Alaska, pendant de nombreuses années, s'est occupée de l'élevage du bétail, des moutons, des chèvres Angora dans quelques-unes des petites îles près de Kadiak, et a trouvé que dans l'une d'elles il n'était pas nécessaire, l'hiver ou l'été, de nourrir ou de mettre à l'abri le bétail dans des étables. Les troupeaux vivent en plein air, broutent seulement l'herbe du pays et augmentent tous les ans.

Un troupeau de chèvres Angora a augmenté de 60 pour cent annuellement et a donné des résultats magnifiques en mohair. Pendant les 16 années qui viennent de s'écouler, on a toujours laissé les moutons pâturer, l'augmentation étant de plus de 60 pour cent et la tonte s'étant montée annuellement à environ cinq livres de laine par tête. Les Etats-Unis ont réservé à Sitka, Kadiak et Cook Inlet des terres pour y établir des fermes modèles. On est en train de construire à Sitka un bâtiment qui, une fois terminé, contiendra des bureaux, un laboratoire, une bibliothèque et des logements, et dans lequel la plus grande partie des travaux scientifiques seront faits. Les fermes modèles seront pourvues

de bœufs pour les attelages et de tous les instruments agricoles nécessaires. Faute de fonds suffisants, rien n'a encore été entrepris dans l'intérieur d'Alaska, mais on a déjà formé le projet d'établir au moins une ferme modèle quelque part sur la rivière Yukon.

“L'Education à Cuba, Puerto-Rico et dans les Iles Philippines,” par R. L. PACKARD (Bureau de l'Education des Etats-Unis, Washington, 1899).

Cette brochure qui est le Chapitre XX du Rapport du Directeur de l'Education des Etats-Unis pour l'année 1897-1898, traite du sujet le plus important pour le développement de ces îles et donne les statistiques des écoles à Cuba et à Puerto-Rico. La revue statistique est suivie d'une esquisse historique des relations entre l'Espagne et ses colonies ainsi que de l'origine et du progrès de la tendance séparatiste d'après une autorité allemande. L'auteur décrit aussi l'histoire de l'éducation, le mouvement littéraire et scientifique à Cuba au point de vue Cubain, ainsi que les cours d'études suivis dans l'Université de Havana et autres maisons d'éducation. Il cite aussi les témoignages de juges compétents quant aux conditions de l'éducation à des époques différentes jusque vers 1890.

Le caractère de la population de l'archipel des Philippines est excessivement différent de celui de la population de Cuba et de Puerto-Rico. Dans les Philippines on parle plus de 30 langues et dialectes différents et la plus grande partie des habitants est composée des races indigènes. L'auteur passe aussi en revue tout ce qui été accompli dans ce pays au point de vue éducatif et rend honneur aux travaux des moines. En ce qui concerne ces derniers, il s'exprime ainsi: “Les plaintes que l'on porte apparemment avec justice contre eux ne devraient pas nous faire oublier les premiers services qu'ils ont rendus aux indigènes et à la civilisation.” Une liste des ouvrages que Mr. PACKARD a consulté pour préparer son rapport forme une bibliographie excellente des diverses îles.

Le Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis vient de publier une brochure compréhensive sur la distribution des exportations des produits agricoles des Etats-Unis pendant cinq années, de 1894 à 1898. La valeur de la moyenne annuelle pendant cette période s'est montée à \$663,536,201, ou 69.58 pour cent de toutes les exportations des produits du pays. Dans cette moyenne annuelle, le Royaume-Uni de la Grande-Bretagne est compris pour 54.62 pour cent; l'Allemagne, pour 13.01 pour cent; la France, pour 6.63 pour cent; les Pays-Bas, pour 4.34 pour cent; la Belgique, pour 3.58 pour cent; le Canada, pour 3.47 pour cent; l'Italie, pour 2.15 pour cent, et l'Espagne, pour 1.47 pour cent. Tous les autres pays ont pris moins de 1 pour cent du total.

Pendant les cinq années en comparaison, les exportations à la Grande-Bretagne, en Allemagne, en France, en Belgique, au Canada,



aux Pays-Bas, au Japon, en Italie, au Danemark et dans l'Afrique Anglaise des produits agricoles des Etats-Unis ont augmenté. En ce qui concerne la Grande-Bretagne, l'augmentation a été la plus considérable, quoique cependant pour la Belgique et la Hollande elle est digne d'être notée; quant à la France et l'Allemagne, elle a été très importante. Pendant la période ci-dessus nommée, la quantité de produits agricoles prise chaque année par le Canada s'est élevée, en moyenne, à \$23,000,000; les Indes Occidentales prirent un peu moins de \$17,000,000 annuellement, tandis que la moyenne annuelle de l'Amérique du Sud fut \$11,389,761, dont plus de la moitié alla au Brésil.

Un nouveau facteur est entré dans le système d'éducation agricole des Etats-Unis. En dehors de l'Institut des agriculteurs, des Ecoles d'agriculture, des Fermes modèles, on vient de créer des cours qui propageront les connaissances agricoles et développeront l'enthousiasme chez les agriculteurs. D'après une brochure publiée par le Ministère de l'Agriculture à Washington, ce Département aurait approuvé entièrement cette innovation. Cette brochure intitulée "Cours de lecture pour les agriculteurs" est un abrégé d'un article de Mr. le Prof. L. H. BAILEY et décrit les principales méthodes employées dans plusieurs Etats. On est en train d'organiser dans quelques universités des Etats de l'Est, et aussi loin dans l'Ouest que le Sud Dakota, des cours semblables. Ces cours sont dirigés d'après le système Chautauqua et comprennent des conférences sur des sujets tels que "Terrains et récoltes, Elevage et pâturage des bestiaux, Laiterie, Culture des Fruits, Economie des fermiers et Economie domestique." Encadrée dans cette brochure se trouve une liste de publications sur l'agriculture recommandées ou employées dans ces cours. Le Département de l'Agriculture a publié un nombre de "Bulletins pour les agriculteurs" qui traitent clairement et avec concision des sujets intéressant l'agriculture. Ils sont distribués gratis et on y trouve des matières particulièrement bien appropriées à ce genre de lectures.

L'Education aux Etats-Unis (Education in the United States) est le titre d'un ouvrage en 2 volumes qui a été écrit et publié par M. le Professeur NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER. Cette œuvre sera une des plus importantes de celles qui seront exposées à l'Exposition Universelle de Paris. Le travail consiste en 19 monographies, chacune préparée par un monographe spécial, et toutes prises ensemble donnent une idée exacte de l'activité déployée actuellement dans le système d'éducation des Etats-Unis. On a l'intention d'offrir de nombreux exemplaires de cet ouvrage magnifiquement relié aux principaux Gouvernements, aux bibliothèques publiques et aux maisons d'éducation du monde. Le public pourra s'en procurer des copies à des prix

modérés. Parmi les collaborateurs de ce travail on cite: M. le Dr. WILLIAM T. HARRIS, Directeur de l'Education aux Etats-Unis; M. ANDREW FLEMING WEST, Professeur de Latin à l'Université Princeton; M. le Dr. ANDREW SLOAN DRAPER, Président de l'Université de l'Illinois; M. I. C. MENDENHALL, Président de l'Institut Technologique de Worcester, Massachusetts, et Mr. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, Principal de l'Institut Tuskegee.

Mr. A. R. SPOFFORD, Bibliothécaire Adjoint de la Bibliothèque du Congrès des Etats-Unis, a écrit la préface d'un nouvel ouvrage qui doit être publié par Putnam et C<sup>ie</sup>. et dont le titre est: Un livre pour tous les lecteurs (A Book for all Readers). L'auteur traite principalement dans ce livre du soin que l'on doit apporter dans le choix des livres et de la manière de diriger les bibliothèques privées ou publiques. Une partie de cet ouvrage traite de la bibliothèque au point de vue scientifique, l'autre partie s'occupe de sujets tels que: le choix des livres, l'art de lire, les ouvrages rares, la littérature des publications périodiques et des brochures, l'achat des livres en Amérique et en Europe, l'art de relier, l'histoire des bibliothèques, les ennemis des livres, le côté amusant dans les bibliothèques, la faculté de la mémoire, en un mot, tous les sujets qui commandent l'intérêt non seulement de tous les gens de lettres, des personnes qui aiment les bons livres, mais encore des lecteurs en général.

# MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

## BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

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VOL. VIII.

APRIL, 1900.

No. 4.

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### ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

#### FOREIGN TRADE IN 1899.

According to recent statistics in the "La Plata Post," the foreign trade of the Argentine Republic in 1899, the imports as well as the exports, especially the latter, shows a large increase as compared with 1898. The imports in 1899 (exclusive of gold and silver specie, which was \$2,371,777, as against \$7,298,901 in 1898) were as follows:

Dutiable goods, \$102,080,738, and nondutiable goods, \$14,769,933, against the following in 1898: Dutiable goods, \$93,988,545, and nondutiable goods, \$13,440,355.

The total value of the importations during the year 1899—\$116,850,671—was \$9,421,771 higher than the total for the year 1898, when the amount was \$107,428,900.

The exports during the year 1899 (exclusive of gold and silver specie, which amounted to \$231,575, as against \$1,572,772 in 1898) were as follows:

Dutiable goods, \$100,868,723, and nondutiable goods, \$84,049,108, against the following exportations in 1898: Dutiable goods, \$71,472,647, and nondutiable goods, \$62,356,811.

The total value of the exports was \$184,917,531, as against \$133,829,458 for 1898, an increase over the latter year of \$51,088,073. This increase is due chiefly to the exportation of live stock and live stock products, which appear in the report as amounting to \$115,549,906 in 1899, an increase over 1898 of \$28,165,281. The exports of agricultural products also show a remarkable increase, namely, \$22,463,073. The several countries with which the Argentine Republic maintains trade relations are as follows, with the extent of the trade with each in the

year 1899 as compared with the year 1898, the values being expressed in Argentine gold:

	1899.		1898.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
Great Britain .....	\$43,671,421	\$21,721,591	\$39,012,600	\$19,205,366
United States .....	15,466,846	7,667,523	11,129,075	5,874,295
Italy .....	13,780,072	4,926,612	13,695,241	5,256,054
Germany .....	12,979,937	29,433,663	12,571,116	20,286,338
France .....	10,979,690	41,446,747	10,596,725	29,981,056
Belgium .....	9,410,479	24,478,370	9,444,981	13,949,751
Brazil .....	4,806,116	7,041,668	5,012,115	7,916,301
Spain .....	3,197,882	1,765,391	3,315,470	387,998
Paraguay .....	1,371,649	177,974	1,757,439	144,108
Uruguay .....	506,967	3,481,348	470,901	3,683,275
The Netherlands .....	143,056	1,481,526	109,881	331,232
Chile .....	142,309	659,924	82,772	1,354,494
Portugal .....	98,003	72,184	74,984	11,597
Bolivia .....	78,385	332,129	57,208	408,813
Antilles .....	44,098	265,939	27,643	162,397
Other countries .....	173,761	11,421,567	70,749	7,100,100
Orders .....		28,543,375		9,939,048

### EFFECTS OF THE HEAT IN BUENOS AYRES.

With regard to the period of excessive heat, which had occurred just previous to February 16, 1900, the "Southern Cross" of that date says: "The heat wave stayed long enough in Buenos Ayres to kill about 200 people. The exact details of mortality have not yet been published, and probably will never be fully known, but approximate figures have been compiled by persons who have had the means of knowing what took place, and their tale is certainly a tragic one. It seems that there were about 1,200 cases of sun sickness—that is, cases of heat prostration and sunstroke—and of these over 200 proved fatal. A committee of doctors specially named for the purpose have carried out an inquiry into the nature of the fatal sickness which in the space of a few days prostrated so many hundreds of people. They have unanimously arrived at the conclusion that the trouble was not any plague or mischievous contagion, as so many panic-stricken people supposed, but the effect of excessive and humid heat. They point out that important factors in the virulent development of the sickness were the unhealthy conditions of life in portions of the city and the bad quality of stimulants consumed by the poorer classes."

### POLICY OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

"La Nacion," of Buenos Ayres, for January 24, 1900, contains an article regarding the arrival of the new Minister of Agriculture, Señor MARTÍN GARCIA MÉROU, formerly Argentine Minister in Washington, in which article that gentleman expresses his intention of giving preferred attention, in the conduct of the business of the Department over which he is to preside, to the pastoral and agricultural interests. With respect to the former he is reported as saying that his best efforts will

be directed toward the adoption of better transportation facilities for cattle on the hoof. Regarding the latter, especially cereals, the new Minister is a decided partisan of elevators, regretting that the country should be still deprived of the great benefits to be derived from their use. He will also take a deep interest in arboriculture and the preservation of forests. The ex-diplomat manifested his kindly feelings for the Government of the United States and the people of Washington, where, he said, attentions and courtesies were lavished upon him during the four years of his residence there, as well as at the time of his departure.

#### **APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE PRESENT FISCAL YEAR.**

The general appropriation act to cover the expenses of the Argentine Government for the present fiscal year shows totals of expenditures amounting to \$94,271,309.80 national currency and \$23,819,978.61 gold. The Executive Power promises to reduce the grand total by \$5,000,000 through the operations of a decree the Treasury Department has now under examination.

#### **ELECTRIC PLANT FOR BUENOS AYRES.**

The "Review of the River Plate," in its issue of February 3, 1900, published an extract of a decree, dated December 29, 1899 (referred to in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900), calling for tenders for the establishment of an electric plant for the city of Buenos Ayres, which is as follows:

"The Buenos Ayres Municipality is now calling for tenders for the establishment of an electric light and power station for supplying the whole of the city with public electric lighting and power. The following are the conditions:

"Tenders to state the price per unit in the generating station, in the transformer stations, and in the houses. A price also to be given for the public lighting, to include the price of the current, the installation of lamps, etc., and the working and preservation. Prices to be on a sliding scale. Full particulars to be given as to tension, etc. The tenders, which include the conditions on which the company will work the station, will be given preference. The tenders in this form can include the cost of erecting a municipal station with three-phase high-tension plant, the proposers working the station during the period of amortization of the capital with a minimum price per kilowatt hour based on an output of 6,000 horsepower, in units of 2,000 horsepower, more or less, public lighting for all night, etc. In this case the municipality will provide the necessary land. The public lighting, according to the Director of Public Lighting, will require from 8,000 to 10,000 arc lamps, of 10 amperes, and the mains are to spread over

the entire municipality and suburbs. The scheme resolves itself into the following: The municipality will give preference to those tenders which agree to the transfer of the entire undertaking to the municipality at a certain period, the system to be high tension, with a regular system of rotary converters, etc., and all the public lighting to be by means of continuous-current arc lamps. The situation of the station to be at the South Dock."

#### **EXPORTS OF LIVE STOCK.**

According to the figures compiled by the statistical section of the Department of Agriculture, the exports of live stock through the ports of La Plata and Buenos Ayres during January last were as follows: Cattle, 13,682; sheep, 61,933; horses, 1,565. Of the horses 1,047 were destined for South African ports. During the second half of 1899 the largest shipment of cattle was during the month of November, when 4,812 head were sent to foreign countries.

#### **FATE OF THE IBARRETA EXPEDITION.**

The newspapers of the Argentine Republic have printed all the known details of the tragic fate of the expedition led by ENRIQUE IBARRETA, a civil engineer who set out on May 8, 1898, to descend the Pilcomayo River from its source in the mountains of Bolivia through the plain of the Gran Chaco to the Paraguay. Two of the party reached Asunción on December 21, seeking relief for the expedition, which had surveyed the river for 400 miles and had reached the swamps of Patino, 200 miles above the Paraguay. Their supplies of provisions gave out, and game was not sufficiently abundant to support the party. The leader sent eight men down the river to procure relief, while he and two companions remained with the boats. For a number of days the eight men had no food and six of them perished, the two who reached Paraguay being in a terrible condition.

Dr. JOSÉ MONTERO was sent up to Pilcomayo with food supplies and found abundant evidence that IBARRETA and his two companions had been massacred and their two small boats destroyed by Indians. Thus nine out of eleven members of the party perished, and the records of the expedition were all destroyed.

#### **TELEGRAPHY IN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AYRES.**

The Department of Telegraphs in the Province of Buenos Ayres has published its report for 1899. The length of telegraph lines is 4,771 kilometers, while the total length of wires employed is 6,941 kilometers, valued at \$1,366,350 national currency. There are 104 offices in the service, of which 76 work until 8 p. m., 25 till midnight, and 3 are open continuously, day and night. The instruments employed include

163 Morse, 23 transmitting, and 58 commutators, making a total of 244. The number of employees was 479. The total amount of working expenses was \$594,380 national currency, and the number of telegrams sent was 1,412,991. The revenues amounted to \$505,787.53, a decrease of \$38,705 as compared with 1898.

#### **CONSTRUCTION OF A PORT AT SAN BOROMBON.**

The "Moniteur Officiel," of Paris, in its issue of March 22, 1900, states that the law voted by the Argentine Congress for the construction of a commercial port in the bay of San Borombon, near the thirty-sixth parallel of south latitude, on the coast of the Argentine Republic, was promulgated on the 18th of January.

According to this law the concessioners will obtain possession of 1,500 meters along the Atlantic coast for the construction of the port, which will embrace a series of quays, with truck lines, hydraulic cranes, warehouses, etc., and they will become owners of all the land which they will need to occupy on the ocean in the execution of the work.

The harbor must be constructed so as to receive vessels of a draft of 30 feet, and the entrance, harbor, warehouse, and other duties which will be collected on vessels making use of this port will be submitted for the approval of the National Government, and can not in any case exceed those collected for the same services in the Buenos Ayres harbor. At the expiration of the concession, which is for ninety-nine years, the port and its annexes will become the property of the State.

#### **REPORT OF BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY.**

On March 30, 1900, the Great Southern Railway Company announced an interim dividend at the rate of 7 per cent per annum, with £76,000 carried forward. In the corresponding half of 1898 the net profit was £319,000, the dividend was 6 per cent, and the balance carried forward was £38,000. The increase in net earnings of this railway for the half year was apparently £112,000, the gross earnings having increased about £180,000. For 1898-99 the company paid a 7 per cent dividend, having distributed 6 per cent for the first half and 8 per cent for the second half of the year.

#### **REPORT OF BUENOS AYRES WESTERN RAILWAY.**

The report of the Buenos Ayres Western Railway, Limited, for the half year closing with December 31, 1899, states that the increase in the gross receipts was £74,543, equal to 21.51 per cent, and the increase in the net profit was £48,888, or 29.46 per cent. The number of miles now open for traffic is 569, exclusive of the 33 miles worked as part of the Ensenada section. The working expenses amount to 48.98 per cent, as compared with 52.11 per cent in 1898. The results of the

half year's working of the railway show an increase of £74,543 in the gross receipts and, after making adequate provision for the various renewal funds, an increase in the working expenses of £25,655, leaving an increase in the net profit of £48,888. There is an improvement in almost every branch of traffic with the exception of the number of passengers carried, and the decrease in this is accounted for by the fact that the Temperley-La Plata line is now incorporated in the Ensenada section. After providing for the fixed charges, there remains an available balance of £154,878, out of which the board has decided to pay an interim dividend for the half year of 6s. per share, equal to a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent per annum on the ordinary share capital, carrying forward a balance of £49,878.

#### **THE BUENOS AYRES ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS COMPANY.**

According to the "New York Journal of Commerce," the Buenos Ayres Electric Tramways Company, Limited, was formed in London in March to take over the concession for a system of electric tramways granted to Mr. Charles Bright, an American engineer, by the municipality of Buenos Ayres. The company has a capital of £350,000, divided into equal proportions of 6 per cent cumulative preferred and common shares, at £5 each. The preferred shares are now offered for subscription, together with an issue of £175,000 five per cent first mortgage debentures, repayable at £105 in 1935, or before that date on six months' notice.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.**

A correspondent of the "London Times," under date of March 20, 1900, writes from Buenos Ayres, that it is semiofficially admitted that the foot-and-mouth disease in cattle prevails in the southern districts of that Province. The information was added that the Government had adopted strict measures tending to prevent the propagation of the disease by isolating infected districts and by sacrificing all animals affected. An additional message, dated March 27, stated that the disease was fast disappearing, and that it was believed to have been a simple distemper, as sheep and pigs were not affected.

"La Nación," of Buenos Ayres, says, under date of February 6, that there had been organized in that city a syndicate of Peruvian capitalists, of which the vice-president of the Republic, Dr. ISAAC ALZAMORA, is the president, to extend the Oroya railroad to the Pasco mountains, and operate the mines there.

Señor MARTÍN GARCIA MÉROU, the new Minister of Agriculture, after conferring with the Governor of the Territory of Misiones, promised to visit the said Territory during the coming winter, and that an agricultural college should be established in the city of Cordoba.



According to the "Rio News" there are five canvas factories in Buenos Ayres, with a capital of \$2,500,000, the yearly output being 4,500,000 yards. The number of persons employed is 2,000, of whom 1,800 are women and children.

Mr. E. L. CORTHEL, an engineer of the United States, has been appointed as Chief of the Hydraulic Department of the Ministry of Public Buildings, at a salary of £3,000 per annum, as reported by the "La Plata Post."

Drs. ANTONIO GAUDOLFO and BALDOMEN SOMMER have been appointed as representatives of the Argentine Republic at the International Medical Congress to be held at Paris, France, in August, 1900.

Reports received by the newspapers of Europe state that for five days previous to March 30 continuous rain caused much damage in the Argentine Republic. Many villages were reported to be under water.

The official report of the Stock Exchange of Buenos Ayres for 1899 shows that there were 4,627 members. The speculation during the year amounted to \$548,947,690 gold.

The "Argentinisches Wogenblatt" states that it is proposed to build a canal connecting the Bay of Talcahuano with that of San Vicente. The cost of the project is estimated at 10,000,000 *pesos*.

The University of Zurich has conferred the honorary degree of doctor upon Señor SANTIAGO ROTH, a well-known South American author.

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## BOLIVIA.

### THE LEADING EXPORTS.

A correspondent of the "South American Journal," writing from Sucre, on February 4, 1900, calculates the annual value of exports from Bolivia at about £5,000,000 and the imports at about £3,000,000. The revenue received from all sources by the Government in 1899 was estimated by the Minister of Finance at £7,000,000, an increase of £2,500,000 over the receipts for the year 1898. The correspondent states that the silver production of Bolivia for the years 1893-1897 averaged 10,000 standard ounces. Tin, he says, is now a more important export than silver, and in 1899 must have reached 14,000 or 15,000 tons. The exports of rubber amounted to about 3,000,000 kilos. The other exports were copper, antimony, gold, bismuth, alpaca wool, furs, hides, cacao, coffee, and quinia bark.

**REMOVAL OF THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.**

HON. GEORGE H. BRIDGMAN, United States Minister to Bolivia, reports that the governmental departments of that Republic were removed from Sucre to La Paz on February 1, 1900. By a Presidential decree, the latter city has been declared to be the seat of Government for Bolivia.

**COLLEGE OF MINES.**

An item in the budget for the present fiscal year carries an appropriation of 50,000 *bolivars* for the establishment of a college of mines to be located in the city of Oruro.

**BRAZIL.****VALUE OF IMPORTS AT RIO DURING 1899.**

The custom-house has published the following statement of the official value of dutiable imports at Rio de Janeiro during the year 1899:

Country of shipment.	Milreis.	Country of shipment.	Milreis.
British Empire .....	88,812,415.426	Chile.....	1,076,740.851
Germany.....	23,580,818.871	Austria.....	492,647.774
France.....	23,217,128.872	Holland.....	197,195.783
Argentine Republic.....	20,964,903.025	Sweden.....	168,194.400
United States.....	17,866,616.185	Switzerland.....	162,845.316
Uruguay.....	14,467,711.765	Japan.....	10,839.166
Portugal.....	12,883,110.420	Other countries.....	32,362.010
Belgium.....	8,893,784.355		
Italy.....	5,806,769.865	Total.....	220,686,984.492
Spain.....	2,058,900.408		

The nondutiable imports for 1899 were subsequently reported to have been valued as follows:

Country of shipment.	Milreis.	Country of shipment.	Milreis.
British Empire .....	5,394,560.228	Italy.....	24,350.866
Germany.....	1,513,537.615	Spain.....	320.000
France.....	329,342.954	Chile.....	1,600.000
Argentine Republic.....	328,417.000	Austria.....	44,269.600
United States.....	306,327.040	Holland.....	62.500
Uruguay.....	4,410.000		
Portugal.....	41,422.085	Total.....	8,675.072
Belgium.....	687,251.184		

**REPORTED INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT CAMPOS SALLES.**

The "New York Tribune" of April 2, 1900, contains a reported interview, on February 22, between a representative of the Associated Press and Dr. CAMPOS SALLES, President of the Republic of Brazil. In this it is stated that the President said: "The great need of Brazil is to furnish new markets and to enlarge the former ones for her

coffee. Of course you will understand that I can not speak of all the diplomatic measures taken to advance this cause in Europe, but 'Centro da Lavoura do Café' has taken charge of the propaganda in Europe. I am informed that in Germany, Italy, and especially in Spain, everything is progressing wonderfully. It is almost certain that commercial conventions will be made by which Belgium will take all the coffee, if not far more than has been heretofore taken by Havre, while shipments to Hamburg, Genoa, Trieste, Fiume, Barcelona, and Spanish ports will be increased more than double what has been sent to other French ports. Already arrangements have been made with the German, Austrian, Italian, and other lines of steamers to open direct lines with Santos, Rio de Janeiro, and Bahia on the Brazilian end, and Cadiz, Valencia, and Barcelona at the Spanish end.

"I am sure that I am not unduly sanguine when I say that should France continue to insist on her present policy she alone will lose by her want of foresight. From Belgium, Spain, Italy, and other countries the French consumers of coffee will receive their usual, if not far larger, quantities of our coffee at a price far below what they now pay, while all the trade between France and Brazil in articles bought at present in Paris can be furnished us just as well by London, Berlin, and other European markets.

"The present policy of Spain, after losing all her coffee and sugar producing colonies, is highly profitable, not only to her different markets, but also to ours. The policy of Italy is also favorable to the growth of our trade and likewise to all the ports of the Mediterranean. We have already powerful aids in the Lloyds of Austria and the Royal Hungarian Schir, which are already making voyages between Brazil and the ports of the Levant, where we expect to extend the sale of our coffee to Constantinople as well as to other cities. Early in May, and perhaps in April, we hope to be able to show a great improvement in our foreign trade."

The correspondent continues, saying that he had received a telegram from Paris on the day of writing, stating that M. CAILLAUX, the Minister of Finance in France, had resolved to double the duty on Brazilian coffee, and requesting Dr. CAMPOS SALLES to state what would be the policy of the Brazilian Government in such an event, and what would be the results financially and commercially to Brazil and France. His excellency stated that the two Governments were still in the act of negotiating in regard to the question of coffee; in fact, the Brazilian Government required a decrease of at least 30 per cent on the actual tariff to begin with. The system of maximum and minimum tariff was adopted in France in 1892, and Brazil, in adopting the same system, had no intention of making reprisals, but meant simply to oblige those countries that employed a prohibitive duty to modify the practice or suffer the consequences.

If the facts stated in the telegram are true, then the series of articles published in the "Siecle" and the act, called by M. YVES GUYOT an "act of madness" on the part of the Minister of Finance, would cause the ruin of French trade with Brazil, without in any way affecting Brazil. The only sufferer would be France, which would be compelled to procure new customers for about 7,000,000 *francs* worth of cloths and trimmings, the same amount for toys, brushes, etc.; 6,000,000 *francs* worth of prepared skins, the same amount for butter, the same amount, respectively, for cotton goods and ready-made clothes; 3,000,000 *francs* worth of wine; 2,500,000 *francs* worth of paper, cards, etc.; over 2,000,000 *francs* worth, respectively, of metal products and of drugs and medicines; 1,000,000 *francs* worth of machinery, and for many millions of *francs* worth of silks, glassware, hardware, saddles, perfumery, etc. Dr. CAMPOS SALLES refused to believe that France would adopt so suicidal a policy toward a country that is, if possible, more French in its habits, policy, and manners than Portuguese, having even adopted July 14 as a national festival.

The President exhibited statistics proving that the policy supposed to have been adopted to protect the coffee-growing colonies of France does not even benefit her colonies, and that out of about 1,500,000 bags of coffee used in France no more than 15,000 bags are produced by those colonies; the President affirmed that in the State of São Paulo, Brazil, there are hundreds of *fazendas* that produce over 20,000 bags of coffee each.

#### CONSEQUENCES OF A FRANCO-BRAZILIAN TARIFF CONFLICT.

The "Revue du Commerce Extérieur," of Paris, in commenting upon the consequences of a commercial conflict between France and Brazil, says in part as follows:

"At a time when the duty on coffee threatens to bring on a tariff war between France and the Republic of Brazil, it is interesting to show the respective importance of the commercial traffic between the two countries.

"During the year 1899 the coffee received directly from Brazil and consumed by France amounted to about 11,900,000 *francs*, crude rubber to 11,900,000 *francs*, raw ox hides to 8,620,000 *francs*, cacao to 7,631,000 *francs*, and leaf tobacco to 3,781,000 *francs*. Brazil also sent to France cabinet woods, cattle horns, rock crystal, tapioca, *piassava* fibers, and some other articles, which, considered separately, do not represent a value of one-half million *francs*. The Brazilian imports into France amounted to 70,199,000 *francs*, an apparent increase of 2,365,000 *francs*, without taking into consideration the variations in the prices which occurred in 1899.

"Coffee, cacao, and tapioca are the only articles submitted to customs duties, or rather fiscal taxes, collected at the frontier. Tapioca,

taxed at the rate of 8 *francs* the quintal, was the only one to pay a regular duty equivalent to 8 to 9 per cent of its value. The imports of this article are unimportant (39,000 kilograms).

“In 1898 Brazilian products to the value of 26,000,000 *francs* entered free of duty. French exportation to Brazil is less affected by the variations in prices, due to the fact that it embraces a greater variety of merchandise and because these articles are for the most part made up; that is to say, less dependent upon the fluctuations in prices.

“In 1889 the French exportations to Brazil amounted to 70,000,000 *francs*, in 1891 to 103,000,000, and in 1894 to 80,000,000. Since that time the value of Brazil as a market for French products has steadily decreased. In 1895 the trade amounted to 76,000,000 *francs*, in 1896 to 68,500,000, in 1897 to 61,000,000, and in 1898 to 55,337,000.

“The year 1899 was a little better, the shipments of French products to Brazil amounting to 56,588,000 *francs*. These products were, in the order of their importance, wearing apparel and underwear, woolen goods, Paris articles, salted butter, prepared skins, tissues, trimmings, and cotton ribbons, wines, cardboard, paper, books and engravings, medicinal preparations, tools and objects in metal, pottery, glass, and crystal, gold and silver jewelry, machinery and potatoes.

“The greater part of these articles found a much smaller demand in 1899 than in the year before, but a large increase in favor of ready-made articles balanced the losses. Cotton goods, medicinal preparations, and jewelry have also profited by an increase in trade.”

The article terminates by saying that French commerce would profit particularly by the conclusion of a reciprocity treaty granting simultaneous reductions of the customs duties in Brazil and of the coffee duties in France.

#### REDUCTION OF FREIGHT RATES ON COFFEE.

The Central Commission of Brazilian Coffee Growers (Centro da Lavoura do Café do Brazil) has announced that the Austrian Lloyd and Royal Hungarian Adriatic Steamship companies trading regularly between Brazilian ports and the ports of Fiume and Trieste, had agreed to make a special reduction of 50 per cent on the freight rates of all coffee shipped by the above-named commission to the ports indicated, and also to the ports of the Mediterranean, Adriatic, and Black seas.

At a meeting of this association held at Rio de Janeiro on the 14th of February, 1900, it was resolved to adopt a special mark or stamp to be placed on coffee destined for the propaganda abroad. The stamp is to be in the form of a star. On the points of the star are to be engraved the names of those States of Brazil which are the largest producers of coffee—São Paulo, Rio, Minas Geraes, Espirito Santo, and Bahia. The center contains the word “Brazil,” and just below is

reserved a space to affix the name of the particular State in which the coffee in the respective receptacles was produced.

#### DEATH OF MINISTER CORREA.

The Brazilian Minister at the Court of St. James, Conselheiro DE SOUZA CORREA, was found dead at his residence in London on the morning of March 23, 1900. The Minister was in seemingly good health when he retired to his apartments the previous night.

Conselheiro JOÃO ARTHUR DE SOUZA CORREA was descended from an old and distinguished Portuguese family. He was born in Brazil in 1836 and was educated in France. After his graduation he entered the Brazilian Navy, serving for one year, when he obtained permission to serve as a volunteer with the French fleet. During this service he was on the corvette *Chaptal* and took part in the Crimean war.

His first experience in diplomatic life was his appointment to an humble position in the Brazilian Legation at London in 1859. Four years later he was attached to the Legation in Paris. In 1867 he was again sent to London, remaining as First Secretary until 1885. In that year he was appointed Chargé d'Affaires in Paraguay, but did not proceed to that Republic because of his advancement to the position of Minister Resident in Spain. Afterwards Senhor CORREA was sent on a special mission to the Holy See, and in 1888 was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington. He did not, however, proceed to the United States, but was again dispatched to Rome for the Papal Jubilee. Early in 1890 he was appointed as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Saint James, where he has since remained, though, in 1899, he was also accredited as Brazilian Minister to The Hague.

#### THE TOCANTINS RIVER.

In a recent number of the "Mouvement Géographique," published at Brussels, Belgium, attention is called to a remarkable blunder in most of the geographies of the world in regard to one of the principal rivers and river systems in Brazil. This is the Tocantins River, which most geographers, especially those of Europe, have regarded as merely a tributary of the Amazon instead of being, as it is, an independent river basin. A geography just published in England, for instance, says that "the Tocantins forms a part of the Amazon system, being only divided from it by some islands." Another British school geography, published last year, gives the area of the Amazon basin and includes the Tocantins in it. The French geographies likewise make the Tocantins a part of the Amazon system.

The "Hand Book of Brazil" and the "Commercial Directory," issued by the Bureau of the American Republics, both contain com-

prehensive maps of the great Southern Republic, and both give the Tocantins system as distinct from the Amazon.

European writers are only just beginning to treat the Tocantins as an independent hydrographic basin. This river rises in about the sixteenth degree of south latitude, and aside from its windings its course is almost due north. It has as a tributary the Araguaya, which is even larger than the Tocantins. The joint streams form one of the great rivers of the continent, with a width for a long distance of two or three miles; but the river is so impeded by rapids that it is not available for navigation until it widens into the great estuary on which the city of Pará stands. Not a drop of water from the Tocantins River mingles with the Amazon until both rivers are lost in the ocean. The Tocantins reaches the Atlantic about 40 miles east of the nearest delta branch of the Amazon. The chief reason why the erroneous identification of the Tocantins system with the Amazon basin has so long been perpetuated seems to be that the Tocantins basin is closely related with that of the first Amazon tributary to the west, inasmuch as both flow from the same slope and in the same direction.

While, however, no water from the Tocantins enters the Amazon, a little water from the Amazon does enter the Tocantins through several narrow arms of the Amazon delta. This phenomenon, however, does not make the two rivers belong to the same system. It is uncommon for water channels to connect two distinct river systems with one another, but geographers do not say because the Casiquiare unites the Orinoco and the Rio Negro tributary of the Amazon and the waters of Lake Dilolo flow both to the Congo and the Zambesi that the Orinoco and the Amazon and the Congo and the Zambesi belong to the same systems. It is therefore not correct to say that the Tocantins is a part of the Amazon system because it has a water connection through the little Breves River and smaller streams with the Amazon. Naturalist BATES and the other explorers declared that very little water from the Amazon River entered the Tocantins through the Breves, but BATES told of a larger water junction between the two river systems a little farther south. This was a blunder due to the small progress exploration had made, for the river of which BATES spoke is a long trough filled with Tocantins water, with a few little tributaries of its own.

#### DECLINE OF IMPORTS FROM THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The "Review of the River Plate," of Buenos Ayres, for March 3, 1900, says that the trade of Brazil with the Argentine Republic is declining. The statistics published by the "Review" have special reference to hay, bran, flour, wheat, maize, jerked beef, and live stock. According to this authority imports of Argentine hay by Brazil

amounted in 1896 to 351,633 bales, with a decline for each successive year until 1899, when 208,014 bales were imported.

The number of bags of bran received from the Argentine Republic in 1898 was 9,335, while in 1899 there were no imports. In 1899 the Rio flour mills manufactured 767,010 bags of bran, against 633,417 in 1898, and the total bran imports at Brazilian ports in 1898 were 12,204 bags, against 62,374 in 1897.

Flour imports at Rio de Janeiro in 1899 were 300,862 barrels, as compared with 273,137 barrels in 1898. During 1899 the Rio Flour Mills Company received 70,312 tons of wheat from the Argentine Republic and turned out 537,687 barrels of flour, as against 413,065 barrels in 1898. The Fluminensis Mill received 32,531 tons of Argentine wheat and turned out 265,026 barrels of flour, as against 230,185 barrels in 1898. The general movement of flour in barrels during 1899 was as follows:

Stock on hand January 1, 37,000; arrivals, 300,862; sales, 317,862; stock, January 1, 1900, 20,000. The imports, in barrels, were as follows: From the United States, 142,589; the River Plate, 156,309; all other, 1,964. In previous years the totals of imports were as follows: 1895, 341,609 barrels; 1896, 375,935 barrels; 1897, 336,533 barrels; 1898, 273,137 barrels.

With regard to maize, there has been a large decrease in the imports from the River Plate. In 1899 these amounted to 275,914 bags. In 1896 the imports amounted to 1,496,556 bags and there was a decline each year thereafter. The number of bags received during 1898 was 422,286.

The imports of jerked beef also show a heavy falling off in 1899 when 41,886,910 kilos were received against 47,095,040 kilos in 1898. The imports were, from Uruguay, 27,012,610 kilos; the Argentine Republic, 12,368,700 kilos; and from the Rio Grande, 2,485,000 kilos.

Live-stock importations likewise showed a remarkable decline. In 1899 the arrivals at Rio de Janeiro were 9,887 head of cattle and 12,037 wethers, as compared with 19,230 cattle and 14,096 wethers in 1898.

#### EDUCATION, COLONIZATION, AND FINANCES OF PARÁ.

The Legislature of the State of Pará, which convened on February 1, 1900, was addressed by the Governor, Dr. PAES DE CARVALHO, from whose message the following facts are taken:

The Government has spared no efforts in developing and perfecting public instruction in the State. The Lauro Sodré Institute is now prepared to give advanced primary instruction, together with complete industrial and agricultural courses. The most competent professors have been engaged and the Institute can now be considered as one of the most important establishments of professional learning in South America. The institutions for primary instruction, according to a deci-



sion of Congress, have been divided into elementary and secondary schools. The women graduates of the normal schools have been chosen to temporarily direct the boys' schools, to supply the lack of male professors, and the results have been most satisfactory. There are at present in Pará 580 primary schools, 290 of which are for boys, 159 for girls, and 131 for both boys and girls; 538 are elementary and 42 are secondary schools.

As to colonization in the State, it can be said that it is now an accomplished fact, the national colonists are coming in large numbers, while foreign immigration would be much larger had not the Government judged it prudent to restrict expenses in this quarter. The Governor is in favor of a change in this system.

Agriculture is progressing, although it does not as yet respond to the needs of the State. The export statistics show an increase in the production of tobacco, mandioca flour, brandy, corn, rice, and beans. The "Paraense Agricultural Company," in spite of the relative indifference of the agricultural classes, is exerting every effort to realize the object for which it was formed. Seeds are being imported from Europe and the United States and distributed to the farmers. The results are beginning to be observed.

Regarding the finances, the Governor says that the revenues are constantly increasing. The receipts for 1898-99 were 30 per cent larger than those of the former financial year, exceeding by 1,700 *contos* (gold) the budget estimates. Although at the close of the year there was a considerable surplus, this has been partly used up in the immigration and colonization service and in payment for labor and new material for the Bragança Railroad.

#### A NEW WARSHIP.

The new ironclad, *Marechal Deodoro*, is reported by the "Rio News" to have arrived in the port of Rio de Janeiro on the morning of February 18, 1900. This new war vessel has the following dimensions: Length, 267.3 feet; breadth, 47.9 feet; maximum draft, 13½ feet (4 meters); displacement, 3,162 tons. The engines are capable of developing 3,400 horsepower, and the speed is said to be 14 miles an hour. The armor varies from 3.9 inches to 11.8 inches in thickness.

The vessel's armament consists of two 9-inch Armstrong guns mounted in fore and aft turrets, four 4½-inch Armstrong guns mounted at the angles of the citadel; six Nordenfeldts (37 mm.) on the upper deck, two Maxims, fore and aft, and two torpedo tubes.

#### NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CONGRESS.

A National Congress of Education is to be held at Rio de Janeiro during the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Brazil. This promises to be one of the most useful and

important of the ceremonies in commemoration of that great event. The principal object of the Congress will be to ascertain the present condition of education in Brazil and to point out the fundamental principles of education. There will be discussions on physical, moral, civil, scientific, and literary education.

#### AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS.

The National Society of Agriculture of Brazil will hold an Agricultural Congress at Rio de Janeiro on the 14th of July, 1900. At the same time there will be inaugurated a Museum of National Products. The committee appointed by the association to have charge of the Congress has invited the various commercial organizations to give their assistance to the end that the Congress may be a complete success. The Department of Public Works has published the regulations governing this assemblage.

#### REPORT OF THE BAHIA AND SÃO FRANCISCO RAILWAY.

The report of the Bahia and São Francisco Railway, Limited, for the half year ending with December 31, 1899, states that the receipts of the general undertaking show a decrease of £2,351, being chiefly under the head of passengers, of whom 25,085 fewer were carried than in the corresponding period of 1898. The expenditure was higher by £4,674, caused principally by the laying of 17,919 yards of the new steel rails, the purchase of which was announced in a previous report. Acting on the advice of the superintendent, the board has sold the Riachuello warehouse in Bahia, which, in consequence of fresh transport arrangements, had ceased to be of service to the company. The amount realized by the sale—viz., £3,733—has been credited to the working capital account. The funding bonds paid to the company as guaranteed interest realized £52,601, as compared with £54,264 on the previous occasion. The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent per annum, carrying forward £203. The district served by the Timbo branch undertaking continues to feel the effects of the drought, and the receipts for the half year are less by £1,836 than those of the corresponding six months of 1898. The expenditure has been kept as low as possible, and shows a decrease of £2,164. The funding bonds received as guaranteed interest realized £7,467, being £236 less than on the previous occasion, and the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent per annum.

#### EXPORT TRADE FROM HAMBURG.

The outlook of the Hamburg export trade to Brazil at the turn of the year is, according to the "Hamburger Boersenhalle" of February 2, 1900, not very bright. From 111,000,000 *marks* in 1895, the exports

declined to 88,000,000 in 1896, 70,000,000 in 1897, and 68,000,000 in 1898, and it is to be assumed that the official statistics will show a further decline in 1899.

#### **LACK OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.**

Mr. HENRY W. FURNISS, United States Consul at Bahia, in response to inquiries on the subject, writes to the Department of State at Washington, telling of the lack of modern agricultural implements in his consular district in Brazil. He says that the spade and a crude sort of a hoe are the only implements used in cultivating the soil in that fertile section. In many parts of the country the plow is almost wholly unknown. The Consul adds that he can not advise as to the chances for trade in agricultural implements in Brazil as a whole, but that they are not good in his district. He believes, however, that more attention is paid to agriculture and the cultivation of the soil in other parts of the country.

#### **DEMAND FOR COAL.**

The United States Minister, Hon. CHARLES PAGE BRYAN, writing to the Department of State at Washington regarding the demand for coal in Brazil, states that Dr. ARGOLLA, the President of the São Francisco Railroad, in the State of Bahia, will make an experiment with 5,000 tons of Virginia coal, to be followed by regular yearly orders if the trial proves satisfactory.

#### **NO DEMAND FOR BEER FROM THE UNITED STATES.**

The United States Consul at Bahia says that attempts to introduce beer manufactured in the United States into Brazil have been complete failures so far. It is only within recent years that there has been much of a demand for beer in the Republic. At first all that was used was imported, but later, when beer began to be manufactured in Brazil, so high a duty was placed on it that the foreign article could not compete with it. Meanwhile the native beer has so improved that, even with lower duties, it would be able to hold its own with the foreign beers. The Consul says further that British and German beers can be delivered in Brazil more cheaply than the United States article on account of the higher freight charges from the latter country.

#### **TRADE IN SHOES.**

A consular report to the Department of State at Washington states that the import shoe trade of Brazil is controlled by England, France, and Germany, in the order named. No attempt has been made by firms from the United States to enter the markets of Bahia with either shoes or leather, though most of the hides shipped from that section

of the Republic are sold in the United States. For the year ending December 31, 1899, the value of hides shipped to the United States from Bahia was \$440,885.86, and of goat and other skins, \$389,919.64. The report suggests that United States firms can obtain trade if they will give the same terms as European houses, i. e., sixty and ninety day sight drafts, the goods to be delivered against acceptance of drafts.

#### EXHIBITION AT PORTO ALLEGRE.

An exhibition of the products of the State of Rio Grande do Sul is to be held at Porto Allegre, beginning on November 15, 1900, that being the eleventh anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic. The exhibits will be divided into the following sections: (1) Pastoral and agricultural products, machinery and appliances; (2) industrial products; (3) applications of science and art. For the cost of this exhibition, the sum of \$168,916 has been appropriated.

#### NEW BELGIAN-BRAZILIAN BANKING COMPANY.

The "London Financial News," under date of January 23, 1900, says that the "Banque Belge des Prêts Fonciers," a new credit establishment, has been called into existence at Antwerp with the assistance of the "Banque d'Anvers and Compagnie Anversoise d'Entreprises Coloniales," and the "Brazilian Bank of Germany," at Hamburg, together with some private banking firms.

The capital of the new concern, which is to last for a period of thirty years, amounts to 12,000,000 *francs* in ordinary and preferred shares, but can eventually be raised to 25,000,000 *francs*. Its object is to carry out all kinds of mortgage business, at home as well as abroad. The establishment of a foreign branch office is projected, and a foreign subsidiary concern is to be a bank at Rio de Janeiro with a capital of 5,000,000 *francs*, and the field of operation in the Brazilian Provinces of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Minas Geraes, and Rio Grande do Sul.

According to the statutes, no mortgage to be contracted in these countries can exceed 50 per cent of the taxation value as to rural sites and 75 per cent of such value if the property is located within a town.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Dr. LANKASTER, Director of the Natural Science Section of the British Museum, recently addressed a letter to Señor CARLOS MOREIRA, of the National Museum at Rio de Janeiro, thanking him for the gift of a collection of Brazilian flies and mosquitoes, forwarded at the request of the British Consul. The object of the collection is a study of the best methods of preventing the propagation of certain diseases by the agency of the dipterous or two-winged insects.

According to the "Rio News" the exportations of maté from the State of Parana during the last four years have been as follows: In 1896, 22,167,925 kilos; 1897, 18,078,868 kilos; 1898, 22,882,662 kilos; 1899, 21,912,899 kilos. Of the quantity exported in 1899 the Argentine Republic took 14,141,458 kilos; Uruguay, 7,373,883 kilos, and Chile, 498,784 kilos.

At Jahú, São Paulo, the municipal council has resolved to take 25,000 *milreis* worth of shares in the new electric-light company, and four individuals have each engaged to take shares to the amount of 25,000 *milreis*. This is one-fourth of the capital required for the enterprise, the remainder of which is to be raised by public subscription.

Dr. O. A. DERBY, Chief of the São Paulo Geographical and Geological Commission, has been authorized to procure fruit trees from the United States, suitable for the climate of São Paulo. Experimental cultivation is to be tried in that State and good results are expected.

The "Jornal do Commercio," of Juiz de Fôra, states that rice was very generally planted through the forest-producing zone in that part of the Republic during the past year with good results. The planters are said to be greatly encouraged by their efforts to produce this cereal.

On March 30, 1900, the United States Senate confirmed the nomination of Mr. J. J. GIRIMONDI, of California, to be Consul at Santos, Brazil. Mr. GIRIMONDI is an Italian by birth, but is a naturalized citizen and for many years has resided in the United States.

The "Revista Agricola" is publishing a catalogue of the flora of the State of São Paulo. In this is shown what kind of vegetables are flowering or giving fruit in each month.

During the year 1898 the State of Bahia exported 6,553 packages of pigtail tobacco, 4,198 packages of plug tobacco, and 426,498 bales of leaf tobacco.

A French engineer has brought to Rio de Janeiro some samples of most excellent turf, which he secured in Frecheiras in the State of Rio de Janeiro.

Mr. MAX J. BAHER, United States Consul at Santos, has been transferred by President McKINLEY to the Consulate at Magdeburg, Germany.

It is reported that the firm of Messrs. SWIFT & Co., of Chicago, U. S. A., is about to erect a large cold-storage plant at Pará.

## CHILE.

## THE COPPER MINES OF CHUQUICAMATA.

A correspondent of the "Chilean Times" sends a description of a famous copper mine of Chile, of which the following is a part :

"This extraordinary mining field, which has recently awakened so much interest through the abundance of its output of copper ore, is situated 15 miles from the town of Calama [Province of Antofagasta] and about 2,500 feet above it. And its output is not its only attraction ; the character of its product is peculiar, perhaps unique.

"*Llamperos* is the native term given to this class of mine, and has a comprehensiveness to those initiated in Chilean mining parlance which would be difficult to convey to the English-speaking miner in so concise a term. The general aspect is more that of a quarry than a mine, but a quarry of small, loose material, where no blasting is required, being easily disintegrated by pick and shovel, a thick *manto* or layer extending over several hillocks, in length about 3 miles, in width three-quarters of a mile, while the thickness is not as yet known, as there are numerous workings, some reaching as far as 40 feet, failing to reveal any indication that would warrant a conclusion in this respect. In one of the deepest a lode of pyrites has been struck measuring 53 feet across, and yielding 50 per cent of copper, which would point to a future for the whole of the district even more brilliant than the one it can count upon with the *llampos* just now in view.

"The layer is formed of shattered feldspar and *atacamita*, with which it is impregnated, the interstices being packed with dust of the same mineral, a sort of greenish powder containing about 12 per cent of copper. The workings, which are carried on in the most primitive manner, while on no insignificant scale, are out of all proportion with the vast scope for future enterprise. They take the form of immense caves or tunnels, having the advantage of affording shelter from the sun and wind, while forming a most efficient means of separating the squads of miners and their allotted tasks.

"The mode of operating these mines is a pretty fair indication of the abundance of the ore and the extreme ease with which it is obtained. Each squad having charge of a working consists of three men. One with a pick and a shovel dislodges a quantity of the naturally loose material from the walls of the cave, the second screens it in a hand sieve of about 30 mesh, forming a heap of fine stuff, which is afterwards sacked for transport, throwing aside the coarse, stony portion, while the third wheels this latter to the mouth of the cave and dumps it down the hillside. This discarded material carries with it a considerable amount of ore which (in layers sometimes a quarter of an inch

thick) adheres to it. There being no ready means of separating it, little attention is paid to this wealth daily wasted in the rush for the finer and more readily handled material. Each man earns from \$5 to \$15, national currency, per day.

“The sudden development of this region and the scarcity of carts explain the crudeness of the present working and excuse to some extent the present waste of this valuable *desmonte*. The 40 or 50 mule carts which to-day make two trips each are quite insufficient to cope with the present production, and it is to be hoped that the branch line now under construction from the Antofagasta Railway—which outside of Calama passes within 7 miles of the mines—will soon reach Chuquicamata. On the termination of this, the development of this rich district will assume vast proportions, and the cheap and rapid carriage will bring about the establishment of the necessary reduction works on the banks of the neighboring river Loa, whose water supply will not only suffice for washing and for precipitate operations, but will also generate a large amount of power. Even the production of sulphuric acid for the treatment of these ores, which are extremely favorable to the acid process, is made easy by the presence of large quantities of pure sulphur in the vicinity.

“At present the fine or powdery production, which contains from 12 to 18 per cent of copper as it comes from the crude implements used by the miners, is exported to Europe in its virgin state at the rate of 2,000 to 3,000 tons per month. When it is realized that even now it can profitably bear the expenses of railway freight from Calama to Antofagasta, storage and shipping expenses at that port, and the steamer freight to Europe, some idea may be formed of the facility with which it is mined, and the results to be expected from its being converted into a metallic state at Calama or at the mines.”

#### NEW TRAINING SHIP.

The new training ship built for the Chilean Government arrived at Valparaiso on February 28, 1900. This vessel was built in the yards of Messrs. ARMSTRONG & Co., at Elswick, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, and was launched and christened *General Baquedano* on July 5, 1899, and was entered on the list of the Chilean Navy on August 22, 1900.

In the construction of this ship comfort rather than beauty has evidently been aimed at. The displacement of the hull is 2,500 tons. The dimensions of this vessel are: Length, 240 feet; breadth, 49 feet 9 inches; depth, 25 feet 2 inches; mean draft of water, 18 feet. The hull is steel, carrying a covering of timber  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in thickness above the floating line. Her armament is composed of four Armstrong guns of 12 centimeters, two of 76 millimeters, two of 57 millimeters, and two Maxims. She also carries on board 100 rifles, 100 revolvers, 60

swords, 15 boarding hatchets, 30 boarding pikes, and a torpedo tube. The 12-centimeter guns are protected by a shield of steel. The engines are triple expansion (system Slathorn and Leslie) vertical, with direct action, having a force of 1,500 horsepower, capable of developing a speed of 12 miles an hour. The boilers are four in number, of the Belleville pattern, constructed to work with a pressure of 300 pounds. The bunkers have a capacity for 330 tons. The ship appears to be very lightly sparred, the mainmasts being iron with topmasts of timber. The crew, all told, numbers 289 persons.

The *General Baquedano* left the Tyne on August 22, 1899, and, after testing her guns, continued her voyage to Gravesend, where she completed her outfit. On the 15th of October she left Gravesend, calling at Brest, Portsmouth, Cherbourg, Plymouth, Las Palmas (Canary Islands), Bahia Blanca, Puerto Madryn, Puerto Zenteno, and Punta Arenas. From Brest to Valparaiso her voyage extended to 103 days.

#### PORCELAIN WARE MANUFACTORY.

A petition has been presented to Congress by Don CARLOS LAMAS GARCÍA for a guaranty of 5 per cent interest on a capital of \$20,000 for the installation of a factory for the production of white crockery. This is an article of prime necessity, the consumption of which is very great. The imports in a year average \$589,931. The greater part of this ware comes from Germany and England, though small quantities are received from France, Belgium, and the United States. It is claimed that as an industry the manufacture of crockery ware can prosper in Chile, since the material from which it is to be made is to be found in abundance in various parts of the country. It is almost certain that if it is fostered in its initiative stage this industry will become an extensive one.

#### PRODUCTION OF NITRATE IN 1899.

The "Chilean Times" for March 3, 1900, publishes the report of the "Association for the Promotion of the Use of Nitrate." The production of nitrate in 1899, according to this report, amounted to 30,759,775 Spanish quintals, the world's consumption in the same period amounting to 30,712,192 quintals, while the exportations, according to the custom-house returns of Chile, were 30,360,239 quintals. If there be deducted from the production given above 2 per cent for nitrate used by the powder works, the net quantity produced amounted to 30,144,580 quintals, or an excess of consumption over production of 567,612 quintals. The advantages of combination are dwelt upon in the report, which show that the exports in 1893 amounted to 20,612,732 quintals, valued at £6,123,564; that in 1894, after three years of combination, an increased exportation of 3,267,000 quintals produced



£1,009,000 more, while in 1899 an excess of 6,480,000 over 1894 yielded but £332,500 more when there was no combination. In view of this state of affairs the combination idea is again making headway.

It is believed that in the current year the production, exportation, and consumption will be between 32,000,000 and 33,000,000 Spanish quintals. The sum provided for the purposes of propaganda, including the Government subvention of £20,000, amounted in 1899 to a few shillings over £32,250,000. The estimated expenditure for the present year is £37,420, toward which the Government will contribute £20,000. The Government has also placed at the disposal of the Association, toward defraying expenses in connection with the Paris Exposition, the sum of £5,000.

#### SHIPMENTS FROM NEW YORK.

The regular shipments to Chile from the port of New York have been increased in certain branches, according to the "Journal of Commerce." Two locomotives were taken recently by the steamer *Asphodel* to Valparaiso, which were valued at \$23,500. Extra large consignments of cut nails are going forward by every vessel, and hardware shipments are on the increase. "Yet," the "Journal" remarks, "with the prospects of steam and electric railroad construction and some improvement in the manufacturing interests of Chile, claims are made by merchants in touch with that country that if American manufacturers would cater more to the business there in less than a year the volume of trade would be double what it is at present. It is well known that frequently financial arrangements will turn orders toward European houses which would otherwise come here. But even such advantages should not prevent the original purchasers of the merchandise from saying whose goods they prefer, and this can be realized by the manufacturers sending their representatives abroad to create a demand for their wares."

#### SALE OF THE TRANSANDINE RAILWAY.

A dispatch to the "London Times," dated Valparaiso, March 19, 1900, contains the information that there has been a judicial sale of the Chilean section of the uncompleted railway known as "Clark's Transandine Railway" to the Chilean hypothecary creditors for \$1,600,000 Chilean currency. It is further stated that the Government has agreed to take over the property for the same amount and proposes to continue the construction of the line at once to a point in the pass where a tunnel of about 6 miles in length is required to make connection with the line on the Argentine side, now in progress of completion.

### ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

The "Nouveau Monde," of Paris, March 24, 1900, says it is cabled from Valparaiso that the elections of Representatives and Senators which have just taken place have given a considerable majority to the Government party upholding the system of metallic circulation conformable to the law of 1895.

The results of the last financial move have been most satisfactory, leaving a surplus of \$8,000,000, which is destined for public works.

The rise in the price of copper has also contributed to the improvement of the economic situation of the country, where many mines are being exploited.

The harvest of cereals, which is now taking place, promises to be very good, and a large export movement is expected.

### PROPOSED MILITARY SERVICE.

The New York "Tribune" says that the famous Chilean, General KÖRNER, who distinguished himself at the time of the revolution in 1890, has been sent to Europe to there study the organization of compulsory military service, which it is proposed to apply in Chile. On the eve of his departure a banquet was tendered the General, and on that occasion the Minister of War declared that the Government would continue its peaceful policy, though believing in the necessity of an obligatory military service in order to be better able to enforce the execution of the laws. The same authority says that Chile intends to keep permanently in each European country a commission of three officers, who will study all military improvements and indicate those which might be beneficially applied in the Republic.

### PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE PLAGUE.

The New York "Herald" of March 31, 1900, contained a telegram dated at Valparaiso the day previous, which stated that the Government had issued a decree declaring the cities of Santa Fé, Buenos Ayres, all Australian ports, Calcutta, and Bombay infected with the bubonic plague. Sanitary stations were ordered to be established at the following places in Chile: Respallata, Juncal, Arica, and Sandy Point.

### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A dispatch from Valparaiso dated March 28, 1900, says the "agreement between the United States and Chile for the revival of the convention of August was promulgated yesterday as the law of the Republic." It is supposed that the agreement referred to in this message is the convention for the arbitration of claims held by citizens of

each country against the Government of the other, the ratification of which was recently completed and noted in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900.

The death of Mr. JOSEPH W. MERRIAM, United States Consul at Iquique, was reported to the Department of State at Washington on March 29, 1900, in a telegram from Minister WILSON at Santiago. Mr. MERRIAM was appointed to the consular service from the State of Massachusetts in November, 1885.

The exports of nitrate from Chile, during January, amounted to 2,019,371 Spanish quintals, as compared with 2,665,801 Spanish quintals in the corresponding month of 1899. Lack of transportation facilities was the cause of most of the decrease.

The Chilean Government, according to a correspondent of the "Chicago Record," has conceded to the Richmond Gold and Silver Cigarette Company the exclusive right to a patent for the covering (wrappers) of cigarettes.

The customs receipts at Valparaíso for January, 1900, amounted to \$1,200,000 gold, and \$100,000 paper. At Iquique they amounted to \$2,500,000 gold during the same period.

The first electric tram car ever operated in the city of Santiago made a successful trip over the line on April 1, 1900. Popular interest in the incident was very keen.

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## COLOMBIA.

### THE FAMOUS EMERALD MINES.

A French journal publishes an interesting article on the emerald mines of Colombia, from which the following facts are taken:

The lease of the emerald mines of Muzo and Coscuez, which was granted in 1894 to Mr. MACINI, formerly French Chargé d'Affaires in Colombia, expires July 15, 1901. Mr. MACINI transferred his rights to an English Mining Syndicate of London, in consideration of \$30,000 per year, and an additional premium of \$400,000, which was paid two days after the consummation of the trade. The Government will receive new proposals up to December 2, 1900, which date may eventually be postponed. These mines are owned by the Colombian Government, which will concede the right of exploitation, as well as the use of the buildings, material, etc., for a term of fifteen years. The former lease was for seven years only.

According to the terms of the contract all bids—which may be transmitted by cable—should be accompanied by a deposit of \$100,000 at the State Treasury or by \$40,000 in gold deposited with one of the Ministers or Consuls-General of the Republic abroad. This sum represents the guarantee to be paid to the Republic by the bidder, who will be reimbursed if the offer is not accepted. As in former contracts, the concessioner must pay to the Government a premium of not less than \$200,000 in gold and an annuity, the amount of which must be indicated in the bid. These mines are the most important producers of emeralds in the world, their products being universally noted for their beauty.

The mines of Muzo, about 75 miles from Bogotá, were discovered by LANCHEROS in 1555. Mining was begun in 1568, and so great was the output of fine stones that they ceased to be rare. The mines have been worked continuously since then, and although no record exists of the quantity or value of the stones produced, they have made fortunes for generations of leaseholders. The gems are found either in isolated crystals or in lodes with calcite and parisite in a bituminous limestone, said to be of Lower Cretaceous age, which lies upon a Triassic sandstone. The method of obtaining the stones is thus described by STREETER:

“The mine has the form of a tunnel 100 yards wide, with very inclined walls. Near the mouth are several very large reservoirs, the water of which is controlled by a system of gates. The overlying barren rock is cut out in benches and falls to the bottom. When this begins to fill the water is turned on and the rock swept away. This operation is repeated until the limestone is laid bare, when the gems are carefully broken out.”

The mines of Coscuez are perhaps the most important as regards the quality of the stones. Moreover, they offer the advantages of easy exploitation and of a healthy climate. One of the mines, the “Don Marcos,” is a sharp and isolated peak resting upon a granite base. The veins of the point are vertical and, freed from their calcareous envelope, have a greenish tint.

The number of miners employed varies from 50 to 500, according to the needs of the market. In spite of the strict watch which is kept over them, they manage to hide such quantities of the gems that a former director estimated that 25 per cent of the stones were lost through theft.

#### REPORTS OF GOLD MINES.

The Santa Barbara Gold Placer Company, a New York concern, owns a tract of gold placer ground extending 3 miles along the Nechi River, in the Department of Antioquia. The pay dirt, according to a correspondent of the “Engineering and Mining Journal,” in some places is as much as 35 or 40 feet deep. The native Colombians

in the rainy season work such gravels by a crude form of ground sluicing, and get out enough gold to last them until the next season.

On the property of the Santa Barbara Company a boiler and pump are in operation, the gravel is washed in a revolving cylinder, and the values are saved in a sluice 7 feet in width.

The Frontino and Bolivian Gold Mining Company is employing a few hundred men, and is obtaining a small amount of gold above that which is necessary for expenses. The work has been much interrupted by recent revolutionary movements. The French Gold Mining Company is also running to a limited extent. At the Sucre gold mines the tailings are being worked over, and enough gold is obtained to more than pay expenses.

#### THE CUENTA AND MAGDALENA RAILWAY.

MESSRS. TEAL GONZALES & Co., of Barranquilla, it is reported, are soon to commence work on a railroad between Cuenta and Magdalena, for which they hold a concession. The terms grant a subvention of \$15,000 for each kilometer built. Upon the completion of every 6 miles of road the contractors will receive \$150,000 in bonds redeemable in thirty years, with the proceeds of 4 per cent of the import duties collected by the custom-houses on the Atlantic coast and at Cuenta during the period stated. The bonds will bear interest at 6 per cent.

#### STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN COLON AND GENOA.

The Italian Steamship Company La Veloce, by reason of the Paris Exposition, will increase the number of its steamers plying between Colon, Isthmus of Panama, and Genoa, Italy. Recently this company was reported to have purchased two splendid new vessels, the *Piedmont* and *Etruria*. Thus travelers to Europe from Central America, as well as those from the western coast of the Pacific, will enjoy increased facilities for reaching European countries. The French and British lines have already increased their service to the Isthmus.

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### COSTA RICA.

#### CONSULATE-GENERAL AT NEW YORK.

Señor Don JUAN J. ULLOA G, Consul-General of Costa Rica in New York, has informed the Bureau of the American Republics that during his temporary absence in Costa Rica the affairs of the Consulate will be administered by Mr. JOHN T. BAKER, and in case the latter should be called away, Señor FRANCISCO GARCÍA CISNEROS, the Secretary of the Consulate, will fulfill the functions of Consul-General.

**CONSUL AT NORFOLK, VA.**

Mr. CHARLES M. BARNETT, in a communication dated April 3, 1900, informs the Bureau of the American Republics that he has been named by the Costa Rican Government as its Consul at Norfolk, Virginia.

**PATENT FOR CAN OPENER.**

On March 13, 1900, Mr. AUGUSTIN T. BEEKLY, of Iroquois Farm, Costa Rica, was granted a patent by the United States Patent Office on his device of a can opener.

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**ECUADOR.****PRINTING AND JOURNALISM, AND THEIR STATUS.**

To the courtesy of Señor Don FRANCISCO ANDRADE MARÍN, one of the Honorary Corresponding Members of the International Union of American Republics, the MONTHLY BULLETIN is indebted for the following brief notes on the art of printing and journalism and the actual status of the same in the Republic of Ecuador:

“The art of printing was first known in Ecuador in the year 1750, when the Jesuits founded a printing office in Ambato (capital of Province) to meet their domestic requirements. Ten years later the same religious order established another printing office in Quito, capital of the Republic. The work of these offices during the earlier years was limited to the publication of sermons, exhortations, funeral orations, panegyrics of saints, novenaries, and small prayer books, as is evidenced by the exhaustive bibliographical studies of Dr. PABLO HERRERA, Bishop FEDERICO GONZÁLEZ SUÁREZ, and the young Chilean, Don NICOLAS ANRIQUE. From the studies of these gentlemen it also appears that in 1785 the printing press likewise served for bringing to light medical treatises relating to the method of curing measles, and that in 1792 the Bishop of Quito, Don JOSÉ PÉREZ CALAMA, utilized it to publish pastorals as to the advisability of constructing the road from Pailón to Malbucho, and regarding a plan of studies for the University of Quito.

“On January 5, 1792, it may be said, with all propriety, that the first political newspaper was founded in Quito, for on that date the illustrious Don FRANCISCO EUGENIO DE SANTA CRUZ Y ESPEJO published the first number of the journal called ‘Primicias de la Cultura de Quito,’ which continued to be issued fortnightly until the month of March of that year.

“From this time down to 1809 (date of the first efforts for political emancipation) and to 1830, when Ecuador definitely constituted itself

into a Republic, independent of Spain and dismembered from that of Colombia, the press continued to serve, in a slow and little fruitful way, the religious and political interests and the scientific hardly at all, for there were no steps of any moment in this direction. Subsequently the printing office became the official organ for the publication of everything concerning the conduct of the public administration by the publication of the constitution, laws, decrees, and resolutions emanating from the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities, respectively. A little later several political and literary journals appeared, until finally, subsequent to 1861, the rights of the press being fairly respected, it has become a free and efficient medium for the diffusion of ideas. Religion (in the first degree), politics (in great part), literature (to a considerable extent), art, commerce, and science (in the lowest degree) have gradually come under its dominion, more or less beneficial, and without limitation other than the responsibility to which, under the law, publications of the press are subject.

"The serious scientific, literary, and commercial works which have been published up to this time in Ecuador have not been many. Perhaps 30 or 40 works will cover all those that have been issued, but the number of loose sheets and pamphlets on various subjects of political and social interest has been very considerable.

"The works deserving special mention are the 'Resumen de la Historia del Ecuador,' by Dr. PEDRO FERMÍN CEVALLOS; the 'Historia General de la República del Ecuador,' by the very illustrious Bishop of Ibarra, Dr. Don FEDERICO GONZÁLEZ SUÁREZ; the 'Geografía y Geología,' by Dr. TEODORO WOLF; the works of Father SOLANO; the 'Curso de Filosofía Escolástica' of the Jesuit MANUEL DE J. PROAÑO; the 'Química,' of Father DRESEL, also a Jesuit, and several other works unnecessary to enumerate here. It can be asserted that at present there is not a Province without a printing press, and that several of them issue publications of varied importance.

"In the year 1893, for example, this was the status of journalism and of printing offices: There were 57 printing offices and 43 newspapers, according to official data exhaustively collected by the Ministry of Promotion. They were distributed as follows: At the capital, 13 printing offices and 13 newspapers; Guayaquil, 13 offices and 12 newspapers; Azuay (Cuenca), 9 offices and 3 newspapers; Manabí, 3 offices and 3 newspapers; Los Rios (Babahoyo), 2 offices and 3 newspapers; Chimborazo (Riobamba), 3 offices and 3 newspapers; Loja, 2 offices and 2 newspapers; El Oro, 2 offices and 1 newspaper; Bolívar (Guaranda y San Miguel), 2 offices and 1 newspaper; Imbabura (Ibarra), 2 offices and 1 newspaper; Tungurahua (Ambato), 2 offices and 1 newspaper, and finally, Carchí, León, Cañar, and Esmeraldas, 1 office in each of the Provinces with occasional publications.

"Guayaquil, the richest city, with the greatest commerce, and which in many ways disputes the supremacy with the capital, has

heretofore occupied and now occupies unquestionably the front rank in the journalistic field."

In this connection it might be well to state that it is the purpose of the Bureau of the American Republics to issue within a short time a BULLETIN devoted to a newspaper directory of all the countries forming the International Union. Considerable of the data to be incorporated is on hand and is being collated and put into shape, while the representatives of the Bureau abroad are engaged in collecting other necessary information.

### THE PRODUCTION OF CACAO.

Through the courtesy of the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, Department of State, the Bureau of the American Republics has received the following report regarding cacao in Ecuador, prepared by Mr. PERRY M. DE LEON, United States Consul-General at Guayaquil, and forwarded by him under date of February 14, 1900:

"*Cacao*, which is the industrial base upon which this country is built and to which she owes her prosperity, continues to show a gratifying increase both in production and consumption. The calendar year ended December 31, 1899, shows an increase of 75,000 quintals over 1898, equal to about 3,750 tons, while the receipts for January, 1900, exceed the corresponding month of 1899 by about 20 per cent.

"Prices also are very remunerative and the demand is steadily increasing, and to such an extent that no decline is likely. New groves are constantly coming into bearing, so that if political quiet continues the future of this country seems to be very promising, especially when the railroad to Quito, which is now being vigorously prosecuted, is completed. Export duties enacted by the last Congress are the cause of complaint to the *hacendados*, but the immense profits they realize do not, in my opinion, justify their dissatisfaction.

"The duties now are as follows:

"Exportation duty, 0.04 *sucres* per kilo.

"Special duty for railroad, 0.10 *sucres* per 100 kilos.

"Special duty, municipal improvements, 0.05 *sucres* per kilo.

"Municipal sewerage tax, 0.80 *sucres* per 46 kilos.

"The bulk of the crop continues to go to France, but the United States trade is increasing, and San Francisco is now taking quite a quantity and will take more, the 'Kosmos Line' giving that city good freight advantages."

### EXPORTS OF RUBBER.

A correspondent of the Bureau of the American Republics in Guayaquil, under date of February 14, 1900, takes issue with a statement made in a report of the British Consul at the port named, excerpts from which were published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for October, 1899, page 460. The statement was to the effect "that a large pro-



portion of the rubber which was formerly sent to the United States now goes to London and other European ports." The correspondent referred to expresses himself as follows:

"The United States formerly received about 90 per cent of the rubber Ecuador produced, but now gets only from 60 to 70 per cent. The figures given in the Consul's report are also erroneous. In 1897 the total exports were about \$390,000, of which the United States received about \$350,000, say 90 per cent. In 1898 exports were about \$775,000, not \$454,192, as stated; of this the United States received about \$460,000, say 60 per cent. In 1899 the exports were about \$600,000, of which the United States received, say 75 per cent, or about \$450,000. The causes of this diversion of the trade are principally cheaper freights to Europe and losses from shipments via the Isthmus. The establishment by the Kosmos Line (German) of a regular and more frequent itinerary, is bound to increase both the export and import trade of Germany with this coast, and no relief is to be expected from the second cause until an Isthmian Canal is built. Merchants assert that they frequently have from 5 to 10 per cent of their rubber consignments disappear en route, and have no recourse, as they go over three lines. Steamers sign only for number of packages which, it is asserted, are frequently opened on the way and rubber extracted. It is believed this is done on the Isthmus, but the charge has not been proven.

"The high price of rubber, as the British Consul states, is causing new fields to be exploited. A company has recently been formed to systematically operate rubber fields in the Oriente. I am told by one of the leading members of the company that they expect to export through Peru, using river instead of costly mule transportation; if so Ecuador will not get the credit of such exportation. This informant says further that the barbarous and destructive habit of cutting down the trees, practiced by the ignorant among the natives, will not be permitted. The efforts to create rubber plantations near the coast are also, I am told, meeting with success."

The company mentioned in the foregoing as having been formed to operate in the forests of the Oriente is composed of several prominent capitalists of Quito, where the principal office of the same is situated. The capital of the company is 150,000 *sucres*, which may be increased to 300,000. The company is not limited in its action to the exploitation of the rubber industry, but may engage in other industries and in the purchase of public lands.

#### RAILWAY FROM QUITO TO THE SEACOAST.

A recent number of "El Grito del Pueblo," of Guayaquil, published an interview with Mr. HARMAN, of New York, who is connected with the company possessing the concession from the Ecuadorian Govern-

ment for the building of a railway from the seashore to the capital, Quito, located in the Andes Mountains. The published interview, according to the custom of many Latin-American papers, consists of a series of short and precise questions, with replies thereto. The impression is left that while the easiest work on the road in low grounds is being actively pushed, the construction of bridges, tunnels, etc., in the mountainous region was to be undertaken immediately after the arrival at Guayaquil of the corps of engineers then en route from New York.

The contractor for this railroad was recently in Panama, and gave a press representative considerable information regarding this link between the coast and the capital. He stated that the railroad company had made a contract with London parties who were to provide all the money necessary for construction. Negroes to the number of 1,200 had been contracted for in Jamaica and contiguous islands, and it is expected that 200 of these will be on the ground before this number of the MONTHLY BULLETIN has been issued. The company has ordered 30,000 tons of steel rails and 15,000 tons of bridge material, all of which is to be delivered by November 1, 1900. Col. WILLIAM F. SHUNK, who had charge of one of the South American engineering parties engaged on making the preliminary surveys for the Inter-Continental Railway, is reported to be now engaged with a corps of engineers in making the surveys on the new railroad.

According to "El Progreso de Quito," work on this road will not be carried on very actively during the rainy season owing to the lack of hands, the large majority of native workmen objecting to engaging in outdoor labor during the winter in the cold temperature of the Cordilleras and exposed to the torrential rains which prevail during that season. It had been thought to bring Jamaican negroes from Panama; but the news of the renewal of work on the Panama Canal, which presented to laborers hopes of long years of employment and high wages, operated against the scheme. The paper named trusts that the lost time may be made up in the summer, and that the work on the railroad may then make substantial progress.

#### PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

The following are the figures of the exports of the principal products of Ecuador through the port of Guayaquil for the year 1899: Cacao, 276,404 sacks; coffee, 12,076 sacks; rubber, 400 tons; vegetable ivory, 4,295 tons; hides, 58,902. The value of these shipments is estimated at £1,500,000.

## GUATEMALA.

## MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY.

The "Herald," of Guatemala City, says that the mineral resources of Guatemala, now almost entirely neglected, were very considerable in colonial days, and under the present conditions of peace and progress capital could perhaps well afford to test the value of such interests in the Republic.

All the mining of former days, so it is stated, was done directly or indirectly in the interests of the church. The canonical archives show that between 1627 and 1820 there were 1,332 mines in exploitation, some of them exceedingly productive. The location of most of these mines was a secret jealously guarded. Thus the archives of the Department of Escuintla give positive evidence of mines of gold and silver that were worked there in former times, notably of a rich silver mine near the town of Guanagazapa. In the same manner there are traditions of a gold mine of fabulous richness in the Department of Quiché.

In Huehuetenango, on the south slope of the Chuchumatanes Mountains, the appearance of auriferous copper ores would justify exploration, while on the southern bank of the same range near Chiantla there are silver-lead mines which have been worked in a desultory manner by the natives for the past century for the sake of the lead alone. These ores being of a simple combination, and possessing all the necessary fluxes to be smelted at ordinary fuel heat, are, according to indications, deposited in large, permanent bodies, which probably improve in percentage of silver as they dip downward. The same formation, in bolder croppings, comes out on the high table-lands of the same range about 16 leagues north of Huehuetenango. There is another group of silver-lead mines in the municipality of Salamá, at Santa Cruz de Mushtli, and the same ores are found along the whole range of the Chuchumatanes to where they are lost in the wilds of the Lacandon country.

In the Department of Baja Verapaz, along the banks of the Rio Grande, there are well-defined gravel beds showing a fair average prospect of coarse gold. The natives wash it with *bateas*, or large wooden bowls, and they obtain about \$5 worth of pure gold from 75 *bateas* of gravel. The gravel beds are covered to a considerable depth by alluvial deposits, and "drifting" would be the most feasible method of extracting the gold. The placer area is as extensive as the flats and runs back a considerable distance from the river toward the hills or bluffs. Good croppings or sulphurets of silver and carbonates of copper are found in the adjacent foothills above the Pana high placers.

There is a mica belt also of considerable length which runs along the south slope of the mountain range parallel to the Rio Grande. The line of this mineral is clearly defined, and where exposed to gulch erosions shows deposits ranging from 6 to 10 feet in width. Parallel with this belt there are veins of asbestos and deposits of plumbago.

In the vicinity of Rabinal and Cobulco there are undeveloped silver and copper ledges, together with loadstone and immense deposits of magnetic iron; gypsum also abounds. In La Alta Verapaz, near San Cristobal, a group of lead mines supplies the ordnance department with material for balls and bullets, which contain a percentage of silver. The chalk beds near Cobán supply nearly all of the schools of the Republic with crayons. Native mercury has been discovered in the mountains north of Cobán. Quantities of bitumen are found in beds in the eastern part of this Department strongly impregnated with petroleum, encouraging a proper exploration of these beds. The salt springs at Seven Sierras could be easily made to supply all Central America with salt.

In the Department of Izabal, along the Motagua and Polochic rivers, there are, in the vicinity of Libertad and Quebradas, some extensive gold placers, which have been worked for years in a quiet way by private parties. One of these claims is said to produce as much as 500 ounces of fine gold per month. There is reason to believe that on the headwaters of these rivers and their tributaries rich gold-bearing quartz veins will some day be discovered. In the foothills west of Livingston good anthracite coal exists, but the veins have not yet been opened up.

The Department of Chiquimula produced in former days large quantities of silver, but the mines caved in, and have never been formally opened again. These are located in the Alotepeque Mountains.

Thus, then, the mineral wealth of Guatemala, like its agricultural wealth, may be said to still lay dormant. Besides the little gold washed along the Montagua and Polochic rivers there is but one mine in active exploitation of the 1,332 worked in colonial days, viz, the Rosarie quartz silver mine in the Department of Santa Rosa, the rest await the advent of labor and capital.

#### COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Generally speaking, says the "Moniteur Officiel," of Paris, Guatemala has no national industries and will be dependent for a long time upon foreign countries for its manufactured articles. "There are, of course, some industrial establishments, but these are comparatively unimportant." Mention is made of cotton factories at Guezaltenango, while there are in the country two or three furniture factories, some brickyards, foundries, breweries, etc. "The Indians make the goods

which they use, and their only industry consists in the weaving of mats, baskets, and hats from straw."

"Guatemala is essentially an agricultural country. A great part of the population is composed of Indians who have few needs. They all own a patch of ground, and this land produces abundantly, being of extraordinary fertility. For example, corn gives four crops a year. The principal agricultural products are coffee, sugar cane, cacao, bananas, and corn.

"Germany comes first in the Guatemalan trade, the United States, England, and France following in the order named. The trade of Mexico and the Central and South American countries with Guatemala only amounts to a few thousand dollars for each one. Germany's place in this commerce is due on the one hand to the fact that a regular steamship line, the Kosmos, connects Hamburg with the Guatemalan ports, and on the other to the enormous sums which have been invested in the country by German capitalists. Many commission houses, deceived by prospects of great profits from the cultivation of coffee, advanced large sums of money to the Guatemalan farmers, and in consequence of the great decrease in the price of this article their losses have been enormous.

"Guatemala being, from an industrial point of view, an entirely new country, it necessarily follows that almost all the manufactured articles come from abroad—from Europe and the United States. The principal articles of import are woolen and cotton goods, linen and silks, wines and liquors, alimentary conserves, and machinery in general.

"The total importation in 1898 reached \$3,880,668.12. In comparing the total of the imports of 1898 (\$3,880,668.12) with those of 1897 (\$6,867,857.20) the enormous decrease of \$2,987,189.02 is noted. This decrease is due to the economic crisis which still weighs upon the country.

"The different importing countries can be classified in the following order, according to the importance of their trade with Guatemala: United States, \$1,773,309.52; Germany, \$853,110.81; England, \$538,763.80; France, \$205,849.79."

#### DEVICE FOR PREVENTING SHIPS FROM SINKING.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900, contains an item stating that a patent had been granted in the United States to FRANCISCO L. DE VILLA, of Guatemala City, for a device for preventing ships from sinking. This invention is thus described by the "Scientific American" for March 10, 1900:

"It consists of a series of cubical rubber compartments distributed through the vessel, the accordion-like construction of which permits their folding up. When brought into action, they are distended with

air kept compressed in suitable metal receptacles. When not in service they are closely folded against the under surface of the decks and held in this position partly by atmospheric pressure and by electro-mechanical means, the sudden removal of which insures their instantaneous release. The moment a dangerous leak is sprung the stopcock guarding the compressed-air receptacle is opened and the required amount of air is allowed to rush in and distend the compartments. When fully distended the compartments buoy up the vessel."

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## HAITI.

### NEW AGRICULTURAL EXPLOITATIONS.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to M. GEORGES SYLVAIN, of Port au Prince, Haiti, Honorary Corresponding Member of the International Union of American Republics, for the following interesting letter relative to the establishment of new agricultural enterprises in the island of Gonâve.

Mr. SYLVAIN says that the island of Gonâve is situated in the gulf of the same name at the entrance of the bay of Port au Prince, and is a part of the territory of the Republic. Its dimensions are, length 50 miles, width  $15\frac{1}{2}$  miles. This island, which is as large as Martinique, is much more mountainous. The Spanish, after its occupation by them, found it sterile and lacking water, and so neglected it to such an extent that for a long time it served as a refuge to aboriginal Indians driven from their homes by those insatiable gold seekers. Under the French rule there were several establishments on the island, among others cotton plantations, which in 1787 were quite prosperous. But what, then as now, gave to Gonâve a special importance and maintained it as Crown property was its great forest wealth. The exploitation, begun in 1787, was interrupted by war in 1791 and has never been resumed since, except on the coast from 1859 to 1865.

An agricultural and industrial company has obtained from the Government the lease of Gonâve for sixty years, at a rental of 10 per cent of the proceeds of the enterprise. This company is a stock company with a capital of \$600,000. Each share is \$100, which will be gradually subscribed by calls of \$10. The concessioners have reserved 3,000 paid-up shares without interest. The 3,000 shares in money will alone yield an annual interest of 6 per cent.

A United States association, represented by Mr. KENNETH MACLEOD and managed by Col. J. C. CAMPBELL, has already entered into a contract with this company for the cutting of a part of the valuable wood which covers this land. In fact, mahogany, ebony, cedar, rosewood,

marble-wood, ironwood, mountain almond, maple, oak, *candelon*, and native elm (*Guazuma ulmifolia*) are found here in great abundance. One of the best varieties of henequén (*Agave rigida*, var. *Sisalana*) grows here spontaneously. Almost all of the Haitian woods which were exhibited at the Chicago Exposition in 1893 were taken from Gonâve.

But, whatever may be the profits coming from forest exploitation, it is not to this industry that our attention is directed, but rather to the agricultural and industrial enterprises which the company is engaged in establishing, and which, if successful, can not fail to modify in a short time the economic situation of the entire country. The soil of Gonâve is a mixture of decayed lava, sand, clay, limestone, and of a secular humus. It lends itself advantageously to the culture of bananas, "figue-bananas," pineapples, limes and lemons, India wood, vanilla, ginger, and other spices, tropical and European fruit trees, rubber, mandioca, etc. The textile industry could be developed by the exploitation of the agave and of cotton, the abundance of timber allowing the erection of buildings on the island at little expense.

The raising of pork and, in general, of cattle, sheep, horses, asses, and mules, besides turtle catching, sponge gathering, cultivation of sugar cane and of mandioca, with kindred industries, are all elements of prosperity, and which, if intelligently directed, would increase the capital invested tenfold. The island of Gonâve possesses a healthy climate. It has at the present time a population of a few hundred farmers. Most all of the planters of the Arcahaie plain, who are famous workers, own banana plantations. The principal port, Anse à Golets, could shelter a large number of steamers of heavy tonnage. According to the contract, the company has reserved to it the right of organizing the police force under the control of the Government. Another one of the neighboring islands, Ile à Vache, has for twenty years furnished the food and milk for the district of Cayes.

The island of Torue, under a management similar to that of Gonâve, is also going to inaugurate a new forest and agricultural exploitation, as to the results of which Mr. SYLVAIN says he will keep the Bureau informed.

#### NEW MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

Hon. WILLIAM F. POWELL, United States Minister to Port-au-Prince, has notified his Government of the appointment of Mr. P. FAME as Haitian Minister of Finance and Commerce.

#### PATENT FOR AIR SHIP.

The United States Patent Office, on February 20, 1900, granted JOHN F. PICKERING, of Gonaives, a patent on an air ship.

## MEXICO.

## FOREIGN COMMERCE LAST SIX MONTHS OF 1899.

For the first six months of the fiscal year, 1899-1900, the total trade of Mexico was as follows: Imports, \$28,003,742 gold; exports, \$70,806,959 silver.

The valuation of the imports in silver, as given by the Bureau of Statistics of Mexico, is equivalent to \$58,934,254, thus making a difference of \$11,872,705 in favor of the exports.

Imports during the six months in reference show a gain of \$10,505,434 silver over those of the same period in 1898-99, while the exports indicate a decrease of \$6,009,434. The increase in imports ranges from \$80,000 for liquors up to \$1,058,227 for machinery and apparatus and \$1,767,561 for mineral substances.

The decrease in exports for the periods under comparison, calculated upon the difference between the export price of gold (\$675.416 per kilo) and its commercial value, is represented as follows:

	July to December—		Decrease.
	1899.	1898.	
Mineral products.....	\$40,293,696	\$48,502,072	\$8,208,376
Vegetable products.....	19,775,244	17,650,061	a 2,125,183
Animal products.....	5,700,500	4,232,273	a 1,468,227
Manufactured products.....	854,656	1,301,736	447,080
Miscellaneous products.....	325,355	9,958	a 315,397
Total.....	66,949,451	71,696,100	4,746,649

a Increase.

The imports (gold valuation) by grand divisions were as follows :

	1899.	1898.	Increase.
Europe.....	\$13,877,205	\$11,855,710	\$2,021,495
Asia.....	60,353	57,528	2,825
Africa.....	12,335	3,525	11,810
America.....	14,050,849	10,684,596	3,365,253
Total.....	28,003,742	22,601,359	5,402,383

In the total gain for Europe, France (exclusive of her colonies) was represented by \$552,936; Germany, \$435,994, and England by \$594,006, while in the \$3,366,253 for America, the share of the United States was \$3,345,517, leaving a balance of \$20,736 for the seventeen Latin-American countries, of which Cuba's quota was \$13,000.



The exports by grand divisions for the periods under review were as follows:

	1899.	1898.	Decrease.
Europe .....	\$10,942,532	\$17,466,527	\$6,523,995
Asia .....	2,000		a 2,000
Africa .....			
America.....	56,004,919	54,229,573	a 1,775,346
Total .....	66,949,451	71,696,100	4,746,649

a Increase.

In this division of exports, Germany's decrease is represented by \$569,336; France, \$657,959, and England, \$5,002,107, while out of a total increase for America of \$1,775,346 the share of the United States is represented by \$1,227,901, leaving a balance of \$547,445 for the other countries of the continent.

The imports by customs districts during the same periods amounted to \$28,003,742 in 1899 against \$22,601,359 in 1898, or a net gain of \$5,402,383, while exports, through the same channels were \$66,949,451 for 1899 and \$71,696,100 for 1898, a net loss of \$4,746,649.

#### CENSUS REGULATIONS.

The President of the Republic on January 1, 1900, signed the regulations for the taking of the new census of the Republic, which were published in "The Diario Oficial" of March 16, 1900. The regulations are quite long, and cover nearly every conceivable matter cognate to the subject. Chapter I treats of the division of the statistics which are to cover the following matter: General census of the inhabitants; movement of the population; entries and departures of passengers; territory of the Republic; the agricultural census; the manufacturing census; public instruction and education; fine arts and creeds; civil and criminal courts; foreign and internal commerce; navigation in general and the national marine; taxes and all elements constituting public revenues; administrative matters coming under the several executive departments; and the governments of the States, the Federal District and Territories. Chapter II embraces matters relating to the general census of the Republic, and provides for the taking of one every ten years, beginning with the year 1900. The Department of Promotion is to designate the date upon which the census is to be taken, and will assume entire charge of its various branches and workings. Chapters III and IV relate to the census blanks and the manner of filling them in. Chapter V refers to the collection of the blanks and their transmission to the Census Bureau. Chapter VI has reference to the movement of the population; Chapter VII to the entry and

departure of passengers; Chapter VIII to the territory; Chapter IX to the property census; and Chapters X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, and XVII to the other matters mentioned above as covered by the census. Chapter XVIII covers general provisions and manner of executing the law, and Chapter XIX deals with the penalties for the violation of the same. There is no doubt that this census of the Mexican Republic, which is to be taken in October, 1900, will be the most complete in every possible detail that has ever been undertaken by Mexico, and when the statistics are published there will be unmistakable evidence of the great strides the country has made in the last quarter of the century.

### INAUGURATION OF THE DRAINAGE CANAL.

On the 17th of March, 1900, President Díaz, together with a distinguished party of prominent officials and leading men of the country, formally inaugurated the great canal that is to drain the valley of Mexico and carry off the sewage of the capital. This great work is the fitting consummation to centuries of unavailing effort. The canal is some 50 kilometers long, with an expensive tunnel through the mountains. The inauguration party followed the canal along its entire length, and saw the flood gates opened and the refuse of the city flowing through them. The work of building the canal was done by Sir WEETMAN PEARSON, and is a monument to British skill. The address of the occasion was made by President Díaz, who, after referring to the importance of the work and the many efforts during the past century to bring it to a successful issue, spoke as follows:

“If it should occur to the human race at some more or less remote epoch in the future to compare the great works executed by the nations during the closing thirty-three years of the Nineteenth Century, our descendants will be able to say, with legitimate pride, in regard to this drainage canal, ‘This is one of the works achieved by Mexico.’ Their pride would be legitimate if, in addition to the magnitude, the grandeur, and engineering excellence of this great work, it be considered that it was courageously undertaken during a period of financial depression so marked that the commercial world had not only never experienced, but never even imagined anything approaching it. In order to estimate its gravity it must be remembered that while curtailing the Treasury’s revenue, it doubled the volume of its debts and the amounts appropriated for their service, at the same time dealing a blow to the coin which was our only medium for meeting those obligations, while defraying punctually the ordinary expenses of the Administration.”

The President also spoke kind and congratulatory words, referring to Sir WEETMAN PEARSON and to the technical Director of the work, the

engineer, LUIS ESPINOSA, "whose name will be perpetuated in the work, will be known by it to future generations, and thus will be held in veneration by our latest posterity."

#### **PRESIDENT DÍAZ A DOCTOR OF LAWS.**

The MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900, stated that the University of Pennsylvania had conferred an honorary degree on General PORFIRIO DÍAZ, President of the Republic of Mexico. On April 4 the President was presented with a diploma and hood indicative of the title of "Doctor of Laws," which the educational institution named had bestowed upon him. The presentation was made by Mr. MALLET-PREVOST, a prominent New York jurist, who was accompanied and introduced by General POWELL CLAYTON, United States Ambassador, the ceremony taking place in the national palace. Replying to the speech of presentation, the President said:

"The honorable demonstration with which the University of Pennsylvania has distinguished me is very gratifying to me, for in addition to its spontaneity it comes from an illustrious corporation of savants belonging to a great nation friendly to Mexico. Everything that tends to strengthen the friendly relations which happily exist between the two Republics of North America, when initiated, will always be cordially seconded by this Government, and everything which, while affecting me in particular, reveals a sentiment of friendship and good will toward the Mexican people, arouses in my heart the liveliest gratitude, filling me with pleasure for my country's sake. The lively interest with which this occasion inspires me is heightened by the circumstances of special moment, and is enhanced by the presence of the Ambassador of the United States of America. All this serves to render your delivery to me of this insignia, of which a high and special significance is patent, an impression which is as deep as it is agreeable."

#### **STEEL RAILWAY TIES.**

The use of steel ties on the Mexican Southern Railway has given so much satisfaction that they will be adopted for the entire line (228 miles), according to information furnished to the "Railway Review" by Mr. T. A. CORRY, of the City of Mexico. These ties have been used on 141 miles of this Mexican line for eight years. The tie at present in use is of pressed steel, 5 feet 5 inches long, the gauge of the track being 3 feet and the weight of the rail 50 pounds per yard. The tie has an inverted trough, with flaring sides, the section at the rail seat being 10 inches wide across the bottom and 3 inches deep, the dimensions at the middle being 9 inches wide and  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches deep. The top table of the tie is 4 inches wide and seven-sixteenths of an inch thick, and the sides are one-fourth of an inch in thickness, the

extreme width at the end being 11 inches. The top of the tie is not exactly straight, the metal portion being depressed nine-sixteenths of an inch below the ends, which gives the rail an inward cant of 1 in 24.

Experience with these ties has shown thier weakest point to be at the rail seat, owing to the large amount of matter stamped out of the top table to form the lugs, and to correct this trouble a new tie has been designed. This is 6 feet long and 5 inches deep at both ends and middle. The width of the tie at the ends will be 13 inches and the width across the bottom at the middle  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches, while the width of the top table will be  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The rail fastening will consist of a U plate passed up through the tie from the underneath and clips. According to the practice of the Mexican Southern Railway, steel ties are not used on bridges or in and around shops or roundhouses, because it is found in such localities that metal ties corrode very rapidly. Before laying the ties it is the practice to coat them heavily with coal tar to prevent oxidation.

#### **BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS IN THE CITY OF MEXICO.**

During the month of January, 1900, the records of business operations in the city of Mexico give a very good showing. The books of the registration office show that there were 56 mercantile operations entered, amounting to \$2,889,635.85; transfers of property, 136 entries, amount represented, \$1,440,855.59; mortgages, 140 entries, amount, \$4,989,841.99; leases, 6, value, \$295,019.77; fines, 75, amount, \$787,789.81; transfers of property (private contracts), 56, amount involved, \$14,286.92, making a total for the month of 472 entries, representing \$10,417,429.93.

#### **INFLUX OF PEOPLE INTO TEHUANTEPEC.**

Ever since the Federal Government has determined upon the reconstruction of the Tehuantepec Railroad there has been noticeable a considerable increase in the influx of families to the city of Tehuantepec, coming principally from Suchil and other neighboring towns, most of whom are in search of work. Several families who had gone to Oaxaca owing to the earthquakes of last year have begun to return. To give an idea of the conditions prevailing in Tehuantepec, it may be said that by the census of 1895 the town had a population of 10,000, and in 1898 less than half of this number remained; but with a continuation of the influx of the present time it will not be long before the old number will be exceeded. In the neighborhood of Tehuantepec there is considerable movement, and the small United States colonies interested in rubber, coffee, vanilla, and tropical-fruit culture, all of which articles are exported to the United States, are gradually growing.

**CONCESSION FOR THE MIXING OF WINES.**

The "Nouveau Monde," of Paris, in a recent number says that the Mexican Government has just granted to two Spaniards, Messrs. BARRIOS and MURGA, an important concession for the creation of an establishment in which the mixing of wines will be practiced on a large scale. The capital will be \$200,000.

"The complete text of the concession \* \* \* offers a certain interest on account of the originality of the business. It is the first time, in fact, that the mixing of wine, which is every day done by the wine merchants in their own cellars, and which has given rise in France to parliamentary discussions and quite severe regulations, has been elevated to the dignity of a large industry."

**TARIFF CLASSIFICATIONS.**

The British Consular Officer in the City of Mexico reports the following decisions affecting the classification of goods under the Mexican customs tariff. (See "Board of Trade Journal," February 15, 1900.)

Muskets for military exercises in public schools (provided that the muskets are of the kind and fulfill the conditions laid down by the Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, and are imported in the manner and in the quantities determined on by that Minister through the Department of Finance) are admitted free of duty.

Rubber in sheets, with a core of cotton or linen cloth and covered on one or both sides with such cloth, is dutiable under article 920 of the customs tariff, at the rate of 30 *centimes* per kilo, gross weight.

**SUBSTITUTE FOR INDIA RUBBER.**

Capt. WILLIAM PRAMPOLINI, of San Luis Potosí, has been granted a patent by the United States Government for a composition to be used as a substitute for india rubber. This consists of the gummy matter of a shrub called *Symantheræas Mexicanas* by the botanists, but which is known to the Indians by the names *youle*, *copalin*, and *jiguhite*. The gummy matter is obtained by using benzine, gasoline, or other hydrocarbons. According to the "Scientific American" of March 31, from which this description is taken, the composition may be vulcanized perfectly, and is better than most india rubber because it is free from all mechanical impurities and needs no preliminary cracking, grinding, and washing. It is cheap, easily obtained, and saves machinery in manufacture.

**CERRO DEL MERCADO IRON ORE.**

An engineer who recently visited the famous Cerro del Mercado, in Durango, to which reference has often been made in the MONTHLY BULLETIN, calculates that the iron in sight on this mountain is sufficient to furnish all the smelters in England with ore for a period of 330 years. The engineer referred to, according to "El Correo de Sonora," made the investigation of the mountain at the instance and expense of a United States company, and he has reported that the iron which may be obtained without excavating one inch exceeds 100,000,000 tons, and that the value of the ore that may be taken out runs up to the astounding figure of 9,900,000,000 *pesos*, at the price of this product when the investigation was made. The newspaper cited asserts that the German engineer, FREDERICK WEIDNER, who has made a more careful study of the wealth of the Cerro del Mercado than anyone else, avers that it contains 1,046,004,200 cubic feet of metal, which is sufficient to supply the smelters now in existence, or which may come into existence, for centuries to come. Mexican engineers agree that the iron mountain referred to is the greatest in the world, and are of opinion that there are similar masses of iron in the country, which will be discovered little by little.

**CUSTOM-HOUSE FINES.**

A recent decree has been promulgated by the Mexican Government abolishing the payment to customs officials of a share in fines that are levied upon importers for infringement of the customs laws. Mr. FENTON R. MCCREERY, Secretary of the Legation of the United States in the City of Mexico, sends the following translation of this decree of the President:

"Whereas, first, the fact that custom-house collectors and accountants are entitled to a share in the proceeds of fines which they themselves impose for certain infractions of the custom-house laws is liable to cause importers at the large commercial centers, where the aggregate of fines is greater than at other custom-house points, to harbor doubts as to the impartiality of the functionaries in question and the justness of the fines imposed by them, and although the decisions of said functionaries are subject to revision by the higher bureaus of the Department of Finance or by the tribunals of the federation, constituting a positive safeguard for the rights of private persons, it is nevertheless desirable, from the point of view of the public service and the self-respect of the functionaries themselves, that their action should not be hampered by the fear that their imposing of the penalties provided by the custom-house laws may be supposed to be influenced by personal or unworthy motives:

"And whereas, secondly, only the employees of custom-houses of

the first and second rank are thus situated, and not those who render their services in the smaller custom-houses, in which the importations are very unimportant, as are also, in consequence, the amounts received by the employees entitled to a share in the pecuniary penalties imposed by them on offenders, on which account the share system is not attended with the same drawbacks as have just been spoken of and can be retained in part as a reasonable stimulus in behalf of employees to whom the Government has intrusted duties of which the remuneration is small, so that they may gain experience and in time deserve to be promoted to more important custom-houses;

“I have seen fit to decree the following:

“ARTICLE 1. On and after the 1st of April next (1900), the collectors and accountants of custom-houses of the first and second rank will cease to have a share in the proceeds of any kind of pecuniary penalty for infringements of the custom-house laws that may be discovered on and after the date in question, with the exception of penalties imposed in cases of contraband, in which they shall continue to enjoy the share granted to them by law.

“ART. 2. On and after the same date (April 1, 1900) the 5 per cent of the proceeds of fines for false declarations, covered by article 633 of the *ordenanza*, shall cease to be set aside in said custom-houses of the first and second rank.

“ART. 3. The collectors and cashiers of all the other custom-houses of the Republic shall only cease to have a share in the proceeds of fines imposed on and after said 1st of April for any of the infringements which the *ordenanza* considers as deficiencies (*faltas*), including all the fines that are imposed under article 545 of said *ordenanza*, and for the infringements discovered in the comparison and collation of manifests and applications for clearance, as also in the classification of additions; saving the cases wherein these additions or the rectifications made in the consular invoices are not allowed to pass, on account of their being considered to constitute an abuse, as provided by article 158 of said *ordenanza*, amended by decree of March 22, 1898.

“ART. 4. The collectors and accountants of custom-houses of the first and second rank, in addition to the salaries assigned to them by the budget, shall, after July 1 of the present year, receive an annual gratuity which can not exceed, for the collector and accountant of the port of Veracruz, 150 per cent of their respective salaries; for the collector and accountant of the port of Tampico, 100 per cent; for the collectors and accountants of the other first-class ports, 50 per cent; and for the collectors and accountants of all the second-class custom-houses, 33½ per cent.

“ART. 5. The gratuities alluded to in the foregoing article shall be paid each month in proportion to the salary earned by the respective employees, on the basis of the maximum fixed by this decree, saving

orders to the contrary from the Department of Finance suspending the payment of the gratuity or reducing its amount.

“ART. 6. The amount of the share in fines and confiscations which the collectors and accountants of custom-houses are no longer to receive, as well as the proceeds of the 5 per cent divisible for false declarations and alluded to in article 2 of this decree, shall be applied to a special account to be known as deposits, and in keeping this account the custom-houses shall conform to the instructions to be issued by the general custom-house bureau. The gratuities paid out under article 4 shall be charged to the same account. The balance of said account at the end of each fiscal year shall either be credited under the head of incidental receipts or debited under such item of the budget of expenditure as the Department of Finance may determine.

“ART. 7. [Provides that the annual gratuity of the Director-General of Customs shall be paid from the same fund.]”

#### PRODUCTION OF VALUABLE WOOD IN VERACRUZ.

According to a report of the Department of Statistics of the State of Veracruz, Mexico, the production of wood for the year 1898 was as follows :

Fine woods, weight, 18,463,668 kilos, valued at \$478,974.49 (Mexican currency); all other woods, weight, 47,939,478 kilos. valued at \$603,099.42 (Mexican currency).

#### INSULAR POSSESSIONS.

The “Nouveau Monde,” of Paris, states that the “Bulletin Officiel du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères” (Monthly Collection of Official Documents) has been publishing for several months an alphabetical list of all the islands belonging to Mexico. Some idea can be gained of the extent of the Republic’s possessions from the fact that under the letter “C” alone the names of fifty islands are to be found.

Besides the name of each one of the islands and their geographical situation the list gives very interesting descriptions. For example, it says regarding Caballos Island that “it is situated in the Laguna Grande, off the district of Tavares, on the coast of Guerrero. It is mountainous and scorpions are abundant, as well as serpents and many venomous insects; but, on the other hand, all kinds of birds are found here—such as, for instance, song birds and others with magnificent plumage, especially white herons with red, black, or pearl-gray spots and with blue crests. The waters which surround this island are very dangerous on account of the abundance of sharks.”



### CULTIVATION OF RUBBER IN TEHUANTEPEC.

An American company has just bought a large tract of land suitable to the cultivation of rubber in the suburbs of Coatzacoalcas, near the Tehuantepec railroad.

The principal difficulty which will confront the company, says "La Nouveau Monde," of Paris, is the scarcity of workmen, for unfortunately hand labor is lacking in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Each workman who will consent to go and work for the company is offered \$1.50 (Mexican) per day and land upon which to build a house.

### EXPORTS OF ORANGES.

The exports of oranges to the United States during the last season have been about 20 per cent less than those of the previous season, according to "El Economista Mexicana." This falling off has been due to several causes, principally to the advantageous rivalry of the Jamaica oranges, which are imported into the United States with a tariff difference in their favor as regards the Mexican product and at lower freight rates. Notwithstanding this the business has not been a bad one, for each box has been sold at \$1.11 gold, net. One firm alone in St. Louis, Missouri, estimated that during the season 104 cars, or 31,200 boxes, each 2 cubic feet in dimensions, were sold there, giving a gross profit of \$100,000 gold. These oranges came mostly from Guadalajara, La Barca, Atotonilco el Alto, Yautepec, Yurécuaro and Hermosillo. The publication named expresses surprise that the States of Veracruz and Tabasco, where the oranges are very abundant and can be cultivated at slight cost, should have made no effort to ship them to the United States, as the transportation, being by sea, would naturally be lower.

### MANUFACTURE OF SILK.

At the recent fair held at Irapuato, Guanajuato, the silk goods of domestic manufacture, made from silk raised in the country, were much admired. These goods came from the "Santa Maria de la Riveira" mills, belonging to Señor HIPÓLITO CHAMBÓN, who has recently imported from the United States a very complete plant of silk-weaving machinery. Señor CHAMBÓN has been for a number of years very deeply interested in the sericultural industry and has devoted most of his attention to creating a demand for goods of domestic manufacture. "El Progreso de Mexico" states that, although the industry is a nascent one in the Republic, the goods exhibited at the fair could compare favorably with many of the better grades from abroad.

**NEW ENTERPRISES PROJECTED, IN PROGRESS, OR COMPLETED.**

The Standing Committee of the State Legislature of Coahuila, under date of March 7, passed a resolution exempting from all State and municipal taxes for the period of eight years the capital, of from 150,000 to 200,000 *pesos*, that Señores Dr. DANIEL RÍOS ZERTUCHE and Lic. MARIANA GONZÁLEZ, or the companies they may organize, may invest in a manufactory of chemical and pharmaceutical products at Torreon. This exemption does not apply to the sale of products and the business will be in operation within a year, the concessionaries having deposited in the State Treasury a bond of 1,000 *pesos*.

French capitalists have recently organized the Panuco Sugar Company, with a view to the manufacture of sugar on a very large scale in the northern part of the State of Veracruz, near the Panuco River. The capital is said to be \$1,300,000, silver. The company has bought the Huasteca Navigating Company's steamers running on the Panuco River, and purposes building 40 kilometers of railroad from their plantation to connect with the steamboat line, thus controlling its own transportation to the port of Panuco.

A new company recently organized at Chihuahua, with a capital of \$1,000,000, is styled the Compañía Internacional Exportadora Sud-Americana. It is organized for the purpose of building and operating a large packing house and canning factory at Chihuahua and similar establishments at two other points in the Republic. The machinery for the plant at Chihuahua will be furnished by a Kansas City firm.

The report that the crew of the Mexican transport *Oaxaca* had recently discovered immense deposits of guano on the Clipperton Islands has created much enthusiasm among the capitalists of New Mexico and Kansas City. As these islands belong to Mexico, some interested parties propose negotiating with the Mexican Government with a view to securing the right to exploit the deposits, and to that end a commission will be sent to the city of Mexico.

A new stock company has just been organized at Guadalajara under the name of "Compania Industrial de Guadalajara." This company's object is to exploit the Atemajac and La Experiencia factories and the adjoining land, the baths of Los Colomitos, the Rancho Nuevo, and the Salvador mill. The Board of Directors is composed of Messrs. L. FORTOUL, president; ANTOINE GAS, vice-president; AG. BRUN, secretary; J. BELLON and J. LÈBRE, directors, and JUAN PAILLAUD, manager.

The Government of Nuevo Leon has just granted a concession for the establishment of a manufactory of pasteboard, with a capital of \$25,000, Mexican. Negotiations have also been begun with this same Government for the granting of concessions for a new brickyard, which is to be established with a capital of \$300,000, Mexican, and also for a factory of wooden forms.

The tunnel, 2 kilometers in length, and the canal, 30 kilometers in length, which serve to carry the water to the vast arid region in the vicinity of San Diego, State of Coahuila, has been finished. It is expected that by irrigation the land will be converted into a most productive domain, and it will be planted on a very large scale in cotton and wheat.

The Compañía M. y F. DESCRUBRIDORA, owning copper mines near Matimi, Durango, has recently closed a contract with the Guggenheim Smelter for 50,000 tons of copper matte. The company is planning to build a railroad to the mines from Conejos stations on the Mexican Central Railroad and to put in two new furnaces.

Mr. R. MOLA has asked permission to establish a manufactory of fiber-extracting machinery, steam engines, boilers, and all kinds of industrial and agricultural articles in Mexico. A capital of \$200,000 will be invested in this enterprise, and Mr. MOLA asks to profit by the law of December 14, 1898, on new industries.

The "Moniteur Officiel" reports that several French merchants, aided by a few Mexican capitalists, are going to establish three large factories in the suburbs of the City of Mexico for the manufacture of cloth, shoes, and paper. The motor force will be furnished by the waterfalls and electrically transmitted to each factory.

The town of Magdalena, district of the same name, State of Sonora, is soon to have a factory of gaseous waters to supply the trade, not only in Sonora, but also the Territory of Lower California.

The Cuauhtemoc Brewery, at Monterey, is putting in a new ice plant and making ready to increase its output of beer.

Guanajuato is to have a large carriage factory and brickyard, both to use steam power and the latest improved machinery.

The building for the new tin and iron stamping works at Monterey is nearing completion.

Mexican capitalists at Linares, State of Nuevo León, are getting estimates for a brick plant.

#### RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY NOTES.

Reports from Merida, Yucatan, are to the effect that the plans and specifications presented by Don PORFIRIO DÍAZ, jr., son of the President of the Republic, for the construction of the Southwestern Railroad, have been approved by the Government. The company having the construction of this railroad in hand has a capital of \$5,000,000. The railroad is to be about 400 miles in length, equipped with electric motive power. Among the stockholders are numbered some of the wealthiest henequén planters and business men in the State of Yucatan. The undertaking is to be equipped throughout with United States material.

The Secretary of Communications and Public Works recently signed a contract with Judge IGNACIO SEPÚLVEDA, representing Mr. JAMES H. HOLMES, for the construction of a railroad in the State of Sonora, to run from some convenient point of Sierra Pinta, District of Altar, and San Jorge Bay. The same Secretary has also made a contract with the representatives of the Peninsula Railroad Company for the building of a railway line in the State of Yucatan.

Construction on the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railroad is being rapidly pushed forward, and there are now employed more than 2,000 men in the grading and other camps. It is stated that the Pacific port of the road will be at some place other than Acapulco.

The new steel bridge over the Balsas River on the line of the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railroad has just been completed. It has a length of 350 feet and cost \$200,000.

The Mexican Government has issued an order that all the railroads in the Republic must adopt automatic couplers of a uniform pattern on all freight cars.

The Mexican Central Railway Company has sent an agent to the Bahama Islands to secure negro laborers for construction work on its line.

The Empresa street-car line of Monterey is discussing an addition to its tracks and an increase in its capital stock.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

"La Gaceta Comercial," of the city of Mexico, on March 14 announced that several German capitalists had arrived in the city of Mexico, accompanied by an engineer, for the purpose of looking over the State of Mexico and studying the business possibilities it might present. These capitalists represent, as is stated, strong German syndicates who purpose, in case of favorable reports, to invest large sums in developing hitherto undeveloped resources.

In a communication dated April 2, 1900, Mr. AGUSTIN PIÑA informs the Bureau of the American Republics that, by order of the Mexican Government, the Consulate for Mexico at Deming, New Mexico, has been closed. Also, that a new Mexican Consulate has been established in the city of Tucson, Arizona, to which Mr. PIÑA has been appointed Consul.

The Department of Promotion recently distributed 150,000 grape-vine cuttings from the *hacienda* of Noé, in the State of Durango, where vine growing is making very rapid strides. These cuttings are from vines introduced by the late General PACHECO when Minister of Public Works, and came from the best Spanish variety.

Late dispatches from the city of Mexico are to the effect that the Mexican Secretary of the Treasury is seriously contemplating the early abolishment of the Free Zone of Mexico, which extends along the whole length of the Rio Grande border, and has served to build up the cities and towns along the frontier of late years.

No Governor has as yet been appointed in the place of General BERNARDO REYES as the Chief Executive of the State of Nuevo León. The Licentiate PEDRO BENÍTEZ y LEAL is the acting Governor. General REYES, it will be recalled, recently assumed the Portfolio of War.

The "Diario Oficial" has published a list of the 138 cotton mills in the Republic, giving the internal-revenue tax each must pay for the half year from January to June, 1900. The total amount of the tax thus to be raised is \$923,017.40.

According to a report of WELLS, FARGO & Co., of San Francisco, California, the product of gold and silver in Mexico in 1898-99 was valued (upon the mint basis) as follows: Gold, \$10,112,000; silver, \$65,310,000; or a total of \$75,422,000.

In one of its recent meetings, the Mexican Agricultural Society discussed a report on experiments for making alcohol from Barbary figs. These experiments were made by Mr. GOROZPE, a rich farmer of the State of Jalisco, and were most satisfactory.

The Pacific Council of Chihuahua has resolved to completely change the nomenclature and numbering of the streets of the city, and to affix in suitable localities on durable metal the names of the different streets.

The Mexican Government has nominated two commissions of astronomers to observe the solar eclipse of May 1, 1900, in Japan and Jamaica.

"Modern Mexico" is authority for the statement that the ROTHSCHILDS have about \$14,000,000 invested in copper mines in the Republic of Mexico.

On April 3, 1900, the United States Patent Office granted FAUSTINO ESCALANTE, of Merida, a patent on a fiber-cleaning machine.

## NICARAGUA.

## PARCELS-POST CONVENTION.

On March 27, 1900, Señor Don LUIS F. COREA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua, and Postmaster-General CHARLES EMORY SMITH, of the United States, signed the parcels-post convention into which Nicaragua and the United States entered several months ago. The convention will go into effect on June 1, 1900. The second article of the document defines what shall be admitted to the mails, and is as follows:

“There shall be admitted to the mails exchanged under this convention articles of merchandise and mail matter (except letters, post cards, and written matter) of all kinds that are admitted under any conditions to the domestic mails of the country of origin, except that no package may exceed 11 pounds (or 5 kilograms) in weight nor the following dimensions: Greatest length in any direction, 3 feet 6 inches (or 105 centimeters); greatest length and girth combined, 6 feet (or 180 centimeters); and must be so wrapped or inclosed as to permit their contents to be easily examined by postmasters and customs officers, and except that the following articles are prohibited admission to the mails exchanged under this convention:

“Publications which violate the copyright laws of the country of destination, poisons and explosive or inflammable substances, fatty substances, liquids and those which easily liquefy, confections and pastes, live and dead animals, except dead insects and reptiles thoroughly dried, fruits and vegetables which will easily decompose and substances which exhale a bad odor, lottery tickets, lottery advertisements or circulars, all obscene or immoral articles, articles which may destroy or in any way damage the mails or injure the persons handling them. All admissible articles of merchandise mailed in one country for the other or received in one country from the other shall be free from any detention or inspection whatever, except such as is required for collection of customs duties, and shall be forwarded by the most speedy means to their destination, being subject in their transmission to the laws and regulations of each country, respectively.”

No letter or communication or personal correspondence can accompany, be written on, or inclosed with any parcel. Rates of postage must be prepaid with postage stamps of the country of origin. The rates are: In the United States, for a parcel not exceeding 1 pound, 12 cents, and 12 cents for each fraction of a pound additional. In the Republic of Nicaragua, each pound or fraction thereof 25 *centavos*. The convention contains the usual customs declaration, and its ninth article provides that no exchanges of mails shall, until otherwise

mutually agreed upon, be effected through the exchange post-offices at New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, Bluefields, San Juan del Norte, and Corinto.

#### STATE EDUCATION OF NATIVE YOUTH.

The National Government has determined to send three poor, though intelligent youths, now attending the colleges of Managua, to the capital of Belgium for educational purposes. The expenses for their maintenance and tuition will be defrayed from the surplus funds collected in the way of consular fees after deducting the salaries of the Consuls. The young men selected to enjoy the privileges mentioned have already entered into a contract with the Ministry of Public Instruction relating to their course of studies, which, it is provided, shall be such as will be of practical utility for Nicaragua. A decree of the President, dated February 28, 1900, provides for sending abroad every two years six young men to take a course in the sciences, industries, or arts. These youths must be 15 years of age or over, with the degrees of B. S. or LL. B., or prove their capacity to study any art or industry; must be persons, who would otherwise be imperfectly educated because of a lack of financial assistance, be of irreproachable reputation, and possess recognized capacity. The Ministry of Public Instruction is to name a board of examiners who will test the capabilities of the applicants and select one young man from each Department. Six young men shall be chosen from these by lot every two years, until the whole number shall have enjoyed the privileges afforded by the decree, when a new examination will be held.

#### NEW WHARF AT BLUEFIELDS.

"The New Orleans Picayune" for April 4, 1900, says that recently the Nicaraguan Government entered into a contract with Mr. T. M. SOLOMON, President of the Bluefields Lumber Company, for the construction of a new wharf and other large and modern Government buildings at Bluefields to replace those now in use. General GUERRERO, Governor of the district, is reported to have decided to expend on these improvements sums of money approximating \$50,000 United States currency, the plans having been approved by President ZELAYA.

A new wharf and modern conveniences have been greatly needed for several years. Under existing conditions, only one ship at a time can land at the Government dock and there is only sufficient room to charge one hatch at a time. What is wanted is a dock which will accommodate at least two ships at full length. These improvements are included in Mr. SOLOMON'S contracts.

The outside edge of the wharf comes within the limits of the channel, which has some 20 or 30 feet of water, and the turn of the tides

creates a current there which runs like a mill race through the narrow opening. This is one of the greatest impediments which the contractor will have to encounter and this, together with the difficulty of securing suitable piles, necessitates a large expenditure of funds.

### **PROPOSED LIGHT-HOUSE.**

A movement has been inaugurated by the ship captains and merchants of Bluefields to have the Government of Nicaragua establish a light-house at the entrance of the Bluefields harbor. At present there is no light-house south of Cape Gracias á Dios, 180 miles north of Bluefields, and the light from this can, at the best, be seen only 5 or 6 miles. What the people are petitioning for is a modern structure to be operated at the top of the bluff. This bluff is some 60 or 70 feet high and a good burner located upon a simple iron frame would give passing vessels the signal some 10 or 15 miles offshore. In clear weather it would be possible to see such a light at a much greater distance.

### **THE GOLD-MINING INDUSTRY.**

A correspondent of the "New York Engineering and Mining Journal," writing from Nicaragua, says that the work of developing the gold-mining industry of the Rama District has been of a slow nature, owing to the limited number of Americans or Englishmen in the district who were acquainted with quartz formation. It is asserted, however, that the work has advanced to a stage where there can be no doubt that the mineral belt of Rama is very extensive, and will cover a strip of territory from 7 to 12 miles in width and not less than 25 miles in length, with the probability of its covering a far larger area. It is also stated that the quartz will run from \$3 to \$450 gold per ton (according to recent assays), with a general average of about \$22.50 to the ton.

The territory is large and situated conveniently as regards Rama. The Bluefields Steamship Company of New Orleans averages a service of two steamers a week, and the United Fruit Company of the same city runs one steamer, on an average, each week. The mining district extends from the river bank back into the mountains, making it only necessary to convey provisions from one-half mile to 3 miles into the interior. Indian, negro, and native labor can be obtained, it is said, for from \$10 to \$15 per month, board included.

### **EMPLOYMENT FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS.**

In reply to inquiries from United States citizens in regard to business openings and the possibilities of obtaining employment in Nicaragua, Consul DONALDSON, of Managua, writes that engineers,



physicians, surgeons, and dentists may find remunerative employment in that country. There are no chances, the Consul says, for young graduates of colleges as teachers in Nicaragua, as the customs are so different that Americans rarely prove successful, besides the salaries are smaller than those paid in the United States. There are very few engineers and this field affords probably the best opportunity, although dentists are very scarce and their services are in demand.

#### OWNERSHIP OF RAILWAYS.

The Consul of the United States at Managua has made a report regarding the ownership of railways in the Republic of Nicaragua. He says that all the roads belong to the Government and are directly under the charge of the Minister of Fomento, Señor S. RANUREZ, who also has charge of all the steamboat lines, with one exception. The latter is managed by Mr. E. NICOL, Agent, whose address is Greytown. There are also two tramways managed, respectively, by F. H. DAVIS, at Rivas, and the "Granada Tramway Company," at Granada.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMERCIAL MUSEUM.

A commercial museum has been established by the Nicaraguan Government at Managua, where samples of cotton cloth, leather articles, laces, prints, etc., would meet with special favor.

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### PARAGUAY.

#### IMPORTS OF WEARING APPAREL.

The imports of cotton socks and stockings into Paraguay have averaged yearly 6,300 kilos, while, according to "Das Deutsche Wollengewerbe," other articles of haberdashery are imported in minor quantities only. Socks and stockings are placed in cardboard boxes containing 1 dozen each and then packed in cases of 100, 150, and 200 dozen. The prices range between 60 cents and \$1.10, Argentine currency, f.o.b. at Buenos Ayres, with terms of six or eight months. Cream-colored, black, and striped stockings are most in demand but white ones are rarely sold. Paraguay is an excellent market for light shawls, with which the women cover their heads and shoulders during the hot weather. These shawls are mostly in black, the better qualities being ornamented with silk fringes and used as mantillas and *rebosas*. They range in price from \$2 to \$2.40, Argentine currency, f.o.b. at Buenos Ayres, and are packed in cases containing 5 to 6 dozen each.

## CONSUL AT PHILADELPHIA.

Mr. ALFONSO ARNOLDO RUTIS informs the Bureau of the American Republics that by a decree of January 5, 1900, President ACEVAL has appointed him as Consul of Paraguay for the city of Philadelphia. His name appears among the list of Consuls recently recognized by the Department of State at Washington.

## PERU.

## THE MINING INDUSTRY.

In a report published in the "Moniteur Officiel," of Paris, the French Minister at Lima says that the statistics published by the customs administration furnish interesting information on the development of the mining industry in Peru; they show an activity which is increasing with each day, thanks to the use of improved machinery and the application of modern methods in treating the precious metals.

During the war against Chile the exportation was absolutely paralyzed; and it was only in 1883, at the end of the foreign occupation, that it began to revive, representing at this time a value of 2,627,606 *sols*. In 1898 it reached 9,481,213 *sols*, indicating an increase of four times the value during a period of sixteen years. According to the statistics furnished for this period, the total exports amounted to more than 75,000,000 *sols*. As no statistics were given for the years 1893, 1894, and 1895, an average estimate of 5,000,000 *sols* was taken.

The amount of ore exported in 1898 was 17,398,548 kilos, an increase of 3,543,663 kilos over that of 1897.

During the year 1898 the value of the exported products was as follows:

	Sols.
Gold in powder, etc .....	41,500
Peruvian money .....	482,365
Silver in bars .....	1,600,000
Coined silver .....	120,000
Coined gold, Peruvian pounds .....	410,000
Gold in bullion .....	25,926
Exported ores .....	9,481,213
Total .....	12,164,004

To this amount must also be added the production of certain mineral substances, such as borax, estimated at 574,226 *sols*, petroleum 1,067,935 *sols*, and salt 5,610 *sols*, raising the value of the total production of the mining industry in Peru during the year 1898 to 13,808,775 *sols*.

The production of petroleum has particularly increased during the last seven years, the production of the crude and refined article amounting to 2,983,430 liters in 1891 and to 17,224,924 liters in 1898, an increase of 14,239,194 liters. All of the petroleum is consumed in Peru.

The exportation of gold is very small. All of the metal is immediately coined and converted into Peruvian *pounds*; but it is to be presumed that the real production is greater than the figures indicated by the official statistics, for, as there is an export duty of 3 per cent on gold, a certain quantity is smuggled out.

According to a statement issued by a professor of the Mining School, the production of gold during the last few years amounted to 767 kilograms of fine gold, combined, for the most part, with silver, copper, etc. However, the production of gold is far from being equal to that of the last years of the colonial period, since from 1761 to 1775 the annual production varied from 4,000,000 to 6,000,000 *soles* and even reached, in 1771, a value of 9,160,000 *soles*. England, the United States, and Germany lead in the imports of these products.

The development which is noted in the exploitation of the copper mines is due to the increase in the price of this metal, and if it is decided, by the construction of an indispensable railroad, to utilize the important and rich deposits of the Cerro de Pasco, Peru can hope to become one of the principal copper-producing countries of the world.

#### NEW TUNNELING ASSOCIATION.

A dispatch to the "Public Ledger" of Philadelphia, from Lima, states that native and foreign mine owners and capitalists have formed a company, known as the "Corrapso Tunneling Association," to drain the celebrated Rumihallana mining district. This work is to be done pursuant to plans approved by the Government in 1877. The company has deposited £10,000 with the Home Debt Bureau as a pledge that the work will begin within four months and be finished within four years. The company is to receive 20 per cent of the product of the drained district from the miners.

#### FURNACE FOR DESULFURIZING ORES.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900, mentioned the fact that Mr. HENRY GUYER, of Casapalca, Peru, had been granted a patent in the United States for a furnace for desulfurizing ores. A description of this furnace is to be found in the "Scientific American" for March. The furnace, as constructed, is intended to take the place of heap or stall roasting of lump ores of a size passing through a 2½-inch ring down to a three-fourths-inch mesh screen. A furnace 24 feet in length is capable of quickly desulfurizing from 7 to 10 tons of ore in about

twenty-four hours, the ores containing over 15 per cent sulphur. Ores can be discharged in about two days, enabling the ore to be drawn from the bottom completely burned out and cold.

#### **LIMA ELECTRIC LIGHT STOCK.**

A dispatch from Lima, dated March 27, 1900, says: "Another illustration of the improving conditions in Peru was furnished to-day, when, in the course of a few hours, the public subscribed for 1,000,000 *soles* of capital stock of the Santa Rosa Electric Lighting Company, which had a concession for illuminating Lima. The new company recently purchased the plant at contracts of the Santa Catalina Company for \$350,000."

#### **MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.**

According to the "Rio News," an earthquake shock at Avacucho, on February 18, 1900, caused the subsidence of some hills and was the occasion of considerable damage to the surrounding country. The town of Tometampa was inundated and twenty houses collapsed. The shock at Lima is said to have lasted forty-five minutes, and its effects were worse than any earthquake since September 20, 1897. No lives were lost and but few people injured.

On March 16, the Bank of Peru and London, of Lima, announced that all current payments would be made in sterling or Peruvian pounds.

Mr. HWANG CHUNG HUEI, who has been connected with the Chinese diplomatic service in the United States, has been appointed Chinese Consul at Lima.

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### **SALVADOR.**

#### **PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE.**

The "Nouveau Monde," of Paris, publishes extracts from the message of the President, General TOMÁS REGALADO, delivered at the opening of the National Congress, February 20, 1900. A summary of this message is as follows:

After dwelling upon the satisfactory condition of the relations of the Republic with the foreign nations, the President discusses the questions relative to the agricultural and mining industries of the country, which are the principal sources of wealth. An agricultural junta, composed of the most able men, has been organized and appropriations voted for its support. The President also says that agricultural and mining products of the best quality have been sent to Paris to the Exposition, to show abroad what Salvador is able to export.

The Legation in Paris is sparing no effort to make known in that market, and as well as in the most important of the other European countries, the superior quality of the coffee produced by Salvador, and is now studying plans which will result, it is hoped, in an increase in the price of this principal article of export.

Every effort is being made by the Government to hasten the completion of the Acajutla Railway to the capital. The State has punctually paid to the constructing company the annual subsidy of £24,000 stipulated by the last contract. On the other hand, in order to avert the total ruin of the Union Railroad, it had been put up for public sale, but as no acceptable offer has yet been received the Government will probably ask a special appropriation for the completion of the said road under Government auspices.

The financial situation has greatly improved. The settlement of the English debt, which at first appeared impossible on account of the difficulties which arose between the Government and the railroad company, has been accomplished.

Regarding telegraphs and telephone lines, the President said the old ones are being put in repair and new ones constructed. A telegraph line of 30 miles has just been established between the cities of San Salvador and Santa Ana. The duplex system will be employed. The Government proposes to cooperate in the construction of an international line destined to connect the five Central American Republics (possibly at some time becoming a part of the intercontinental system), thus seconding the initiative of the Costa Rican Government. There are now 120 telegraph and 40 telephone stations in the Republic.

Important improvements have been introduced in the postal service, notably in the reestablishment of correspondence with Europe by way of Zacapa and Puerto Barrios. Some twenty-three post-offices which were closed at different times have been reopened.

The national roads have also occupied the attention of the Government, and to-day almost all the public highways are in first-class condition. A number of bridges and some new roads have been constructed.

Convinced of the necessity of developing public instruction, the Government has made great efforts to establish educational facilities upon a suitable footing; and, in spite of the economic circumstances of the country, important sums have been spent for the maintenance and development of education. For professional and secondary instruction, important measures have been enacted resulting in the reorganizing of the National University, the creation of an institute in the city of Santa Ana, the reorganization of the Cabinet of Physics of the Central Institute, the reestablishment of the meteorological and astronomical observatory, and in the creation of two new professions—dentistry and scientific agricultural engineering. Reforms have also been introduced in primary instruction, school museums for the exposition of

the natural and manufactured products of the country have been created, etc.

In conclusion the President stated that the Government has followed a conciliatory and peaceful policy, its one aim being to secure the happiness and prosperity of the country.

#### ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER Plenipotentiary TO LONDON.

Dr. RAFAEL ZALDIVAR, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Salvador to the Court of St. James, was recently recognized in his official capacity. Dr. ZALDIVAR is very well known both in Europe and America. He took his degree in the Medical College of Guatemala, and shortly afterwards was sent on a diplomatic mission as Minister Plenipotentiary to Germany, where he remained a few months. On returning to his native country he occupied high positions in the administration and was a member of the National Congress. In 1893 he was elected President of the Republic, filling that office for nine years. Afterwards he visited foreign countries and was disconnected with politics for fifteen years. On a recent visit to Salvador, President REGALADO prevailed upon him to accept the post of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary not only to England, but also to France and Germany.

While in France Dr. ZALDIVAR was successful in arranging for the entry of Salvadorian products into the Paris Exposition. These will be exhibited in the Mexican Division, according to a special arrangement made with President Díaz.

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## UNITED STATES.

### TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

#### STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin American countries. The report is for the month of February, 1900, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the eight months ending February, 1900, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1899. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the

complete returns for February, for example, are not published until some time in April.

## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Chemicals:</b>				
Logwood ( <i>Palo campeche; Pau campeche; Campeche</i> )—				
Mexico .....	\$1,053	\$8,778	\$14,939	\$11,231
Coal, bituminous ( <i>Carbón bituminoso; Carvão bituminoso; Charbon de terre</i> ):				
Mexico .....	20,479	8,800	167,991	97,611
Cocoa ( <i>Cacao; Coco ou cacao crú; Cacao</i> ):				
Central America .....	6	.....	8,597	4,711
Brazil .....	44,229	.....	513,719	810,899
Other South America .....	75,995	118,069	816,920	994,778
Coffee ( <i>Café; Cafè; Café</i> )				
Central America .....	554,092	692,608	1,683,121	1,765,981
Mexico .....	322,997	358,614	1,056,444	1,655,840
Brazil .....	4,630,980	4,572,614	23,035,339	23,855,212
Other South America .....	760,677	518,766	4,319,702	2,607,111
Cotton, unmanufactured ( <i>Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé</i> ):				
South America .....	13,577	35,884	82,679	135,613
<b>Fibers:</b>				
Sisal grass ( <i>Henequen; Hennequen; Hennequen</i> )—				
Philippine Islands .....	271,555	11,708	1,649,597	1,865,170
Mexico .....	372,895	1,257,429	5,570,859	6,898,622
<b>Fruits:</b>				
Bananas ( <i>Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes</i> )—				
Central America .....	116,532	130,191	1,091,518	1,376,287
South America .....	46,879	86,704	286,281	646,487
Oranges ( <i>Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges</i> )—				
Mexico .....	439	247	136,527	184,052
Fur skins ( <i>Pieles finas; Pelles; Fourrures</i> ):				
South America .....	43,905	.....	107,883	110,101
Hides and skins ( <i>Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux</i> ):				
Central America .....	18,748	53,720	179,681	319,023
Mexico .....	206,742	281,895	1,189,856	1,514,141
South America .....	621,940	891,059	4,177,052	7,312,226
India rubber, crude ( <i>Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut</i> ):				
Central America .....	51,352	84,268	524,809	522,568
Mexico .....	10,739	18,483	59,222	123,441
Brazil .....	1,726,478	1,532,387	9,451,034	11,847,724
Other South America .....	63,880	80,070	618,365	694,637
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. ( <i>Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em lingados, barras, etc.; Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.</i> ):				
Mexico .....	88,367	274,780	1,215,921	1,656,008
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard ( <i>Azúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Açúcar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão holandês; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16</i> ):				
Central America .....	17,084	2,511	55,789	48,826
Mexico .....	3,840	2,105	11,859	32,635
Cuba .....	1,203,299	1,209,203	4,734,447	6,263,054
Brazil .....	121,464	534,996	331,400	833,585
Other South America .....	475,419	407,815	4,176,962	4,148,688
Hawaiian Islands .....	1,190,048	817,262	8,915,496	12,328,547
Philippine Islands .....	.....	.....	969,323	906,801
Tobacco, leaf ( <i>Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles</i> ):				
Mexico .....	4,213	19,242	209,464	68,660
Cuba .....	786,426	1,110,142	2,538,657	5,606,225
Wood, mahogany ( <i>Caoba; Mogno; Acajou</i> ):				
Central America .....	.....	85	256,889	195,748
Mexico .....	12,491	26,384	221,364	259,355
Cuba .....	313	12,722	7,513	94,851
South America .....	720	7,079	9,411	22,189

## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Wool ( <i>Lana; Lã; Laine</i> )—				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing) .....	\$21, 027	\$18, 679	\$51, 470	\$546, 900
Class 2 (combing) .....		48, 499	97	48, 600
Class 3 (carpet) .....	13, 268	126, 220	243, 278	419, 296

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements ( <i>Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machinos agricolas</i> ):				
Central America .....	\$222	\$159	\$5, 467	\$5, 736
Mexico .....	17, 619	32, 581	109, 824	224, 305
Santo Domingo .....	5		228	2, 881
Cuba .....	3, 510	16, 128	11, 105	103, 900
Porto Rico .....	401	281	1, 277	4, 275
Argentine Republic .....	72, 382	113, 342	1, 231, 056	1, 602, 793
Brazil .....	3, 086	1, 079	21, 992	16, 443
Colombia .....			1, 271	708
Other South America .....	11, 242	19, 540	219, 743	250, 155
Animals:				
Cattle ( <i>Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail</i> )—				
Central America .....			3, 320	450
Mexico .....	11, 400	11, 525	70, 938	103, 472
South America .....			2, 943	490
Hogs ( <i>Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons</i> )—				
Mexico .....	939	2, 896	33, 690	61, 003
Horses ( <i>Caballos; Carallos; Chevaux</i> )—				
Central America .....	1, 120		5, 590	250
Mexico .....	6, 780	8, 289	59, 034	79, 986
South America .....	1, 400		3, 839	1, 830
Sheep ( <i>Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons</i> )—				
Mexico .....	688	934	10, 053	13, 119
South America .....	660	400	5, 915	5, 382
Books, maps, engravings, etc. ( <i>Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.</i> )—				
Central America .....	3, 597	3, 965	24, 167	43, 091
Mexico .....	4, 984	9, 875	35, 232	81, 806
Santo Domingo .....	2, 000	290	7, 011	893
Cuba .....	4, 895	4, 715	17, 849	39, 913
Porto Rico .....	2, 520	1, 166	9, 397	9, 331
Argentine Republic .....	2, 058	2, 359	12, 677	21, 781
Brazil .....	1, 449	1, 262	33, 734	45, 394
Colombia .....	7, 805	255	32, 480	42, 750
Other South America .....	1, 692	2, 273	106, 777	35, 009
Breadstuffs:				
Corn ( <i>Maiz; Milho; Maïs</i> )—				
Central America .....	3, 693	2, 300	22, 693	30, 883
Mexico .....	2, 564	12, 193	21, 133	149, 445
Santo Domingo .....			2	51
Cuba .....	22, 661	31, 322	122, 359	345, 761
Porto Rico .....		265		2, 374
South America .....	3, 416	977	16, 559	62, 956
Wheat ( <i>Trigo; Trigo; Blé</i> )—				
Central America .....	1, 838		26, 085	5, 200
Mexico .....			5, 036	2, 038
South America .....	415	2, 181	141, 134	22, 612
Wheat flour ( <i>Harina de trigo; Farinha de Trigo; Farine de blé</i> )—				
Central America .....	100, 055	77, 286	674, 799	533, 232
Mexico .....	9, 935	8, 935	86, 812	100, 428
Santo Domingo .....	11, 536	11, 236	78, 133	77, 774
Cuba .....	203, 834	152, 705	1, 114, 096	1, 416, 975
Porto Rico .....	69, 207	57, 923	279, 931	465, 215
Brazil .....	179, 148	189, 644	2, 341, 041	1, 442, 369
Colombia .....	18, 967	16, 420	218, 582	193, 415
Other South America .....	142, 358	113, 082	923, 761	1, 035, 085



## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of ( <i>Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties</i> ):				
Central America .....	\$947	\$1,618	\$30,466	\$15,033
Mexico .....	30,759	101,443	268,148	766,547
Santo Domingo .....	3	334	18,341	17,085
Cuba .....	4,985	7,813	76,516	154,327
Porto Rico .....	697	1,467	2,081	21,185
Argentine Republic .....	9,715	5,097	427,255	231,316
Brazil .....	245	928	61,230	155,545
Colombia .....	884	215	20,028	15,997
Other South America .....	3,752	2,872	40,411	36,764
Cycles and parts of ( <i>Biciclos y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accessorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties</i> ):				
Central America .....	240	86	4,004	2,241
Mexico .....	6,944	848	32,679	18,444
Santo Domingo .....		14	221	216
Cuba .....	1,974	11,962	4,340	128,419
Porto Rico .....	266	185	1,881	1,796
Argentine Republic .....	17,115	14,088	117,452	129,078
Brazil .....	3,749	1,469	44,499	21,199
Colombia .....	228	22	4,962	5,881
Other South America .....	1,644	4,186	34,728	48,893
Clocks and watches ( <i>Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres</i> ):				
Central America .....	88	80	1,681	1,862
Mexico .....	2,441	1,334	17,725	18,656
Argentine Republic .....	1,442	267	14,762	16,043
Brazil .....	3,137	5,088	49,795	47,155
Other South America .....	2,795	6,044	65,302	47,709
Coal ( <i>Carbón; Carvão; Charbon</i> ):				
Central America .....	1,135	2,164	8,797	15,655
Mexico .....	113,796	140,433	737,882	943,034
Santo Domingo .....		678	8,150	9,595
Cuba .....	58,394	88,642	413,287	380,365
Porto Rico .....	7,315	8,448	28,552	30,957
Brazil .....	18,843	6,221	125,493	60,325
Colombia .....	18,076	6,200	30,441	26,357
Other South America .....	1,146	8,654	138,242	54,209
Copper ( <i>Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre</i> ):				
Mexico .....	14,363	77,930	159,262	296,304
Cotton, unmanufactured ( <i>Algodón no manufacturado; Algodao nao manufacturado; Coton, non manufacturé</i> ):				
Mexico .....	24,808	24,773	808,059	421,412
South America .....		5,100		6,880
Cotton cloths ( <i>Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodao; coton manufacturé</i> ):				
Central America .....	31,920	56,173	335,661	474,956
Mexico .....	39,912	29,619	304,512	344,533
Santo Domingo .....	4,849	1,117	96,943	35,795
Cuba .....	43,172	1,761	142,497	351,053
Porto Rico .....	10,215	1,777	21,283	102,903
Argentine Republic .....	1,473	4,638	140,365	82,729
Brazil .....	18,621	16,595	372,031	287,915
Colombia .....	17,971	11,119	238,013	180,924
Other South America .....	114,721	76,436	989,249	646,679
Wearing apparel ( <i>Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodao; Vêtements en coton</i> ):				
Central America .....	27,523	41,726	137,604	261,043
Mexico .....	31,358	21,444	244,177	279,927
Santo Domingo .....	888	580	21,079	9,065
Cuba .....	11,613	9,872	41,667	116,962
Porto Rico .....	1,903	777	6,434	22,021
Argentine Republic .....	1,252	293	50,912	13,265
Brazil .....	2,302	1,605	30,139	30,169
Colombia .....	1,060	6,046	30,509	32,820
Other South America .....	3,515	3,022	32,491	48,720

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Fruits and nuts</b> ( <i>Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noixes</i> ):				
Central America .....	\$2,081	\$2,546	\$18,459	\$24,849
Mexico.....	4,862	7,834	53,847	58,804
Santo Domingo .....	4	92	1,594	2,111
Cuba.....	4,081	3,481	48,195	68,741
Porto Rico.....	348	685	3,058	10,247
Argentine Republic.....	768	854	6,267	3,430
Brazil.....	213	629	13,379	17,036
Colombia.....	687	1,205	4,939	6,767
Other South America.....	1,013	1,453	15,958	15,215
<b>Instruments:</b>				
Electric and scientific apparatus ( <i>Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Aparelhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques</i> )—				
Central America .....	3,216	3,082	62,648	37,058
Mexico.....	48,614	21,091	292,114	304,854
Argentine Republic.....	12,556	16,899	139,784	206,881
Brazil.....	9,787	14,936	80,825	129,999
Other South America.....	5,204	9,494	68,343	100,604
<b>Iron and steel, manufactures of:</b>				
Steel rails ( <i>Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier</i> )—				
Central America .....	6,382	.....	32,522	13,157
Mexico.....	48,576	59,472	380,550	341,948
South America.....	7,681	8,780	201,506	154,219
<b>Builders' hardware, and saws and tools</b> ( <i>Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentus; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils</i> )—				
Central America .....	5,953	6,392	52,931	64,872
Mexico.....	29,426	36,517	201,151	315,462
Santo Domingo .....	366	830	7,291	6,593
Cuba.....	22,079	22,175	126,300	245,224
Porto Rico.....	969	1,399	4,462	19,662
Argentine Republic.....	7,542	11,294	149,197	196,077
Brazil.....	12,715	17,215	140,380	182,270
Colombia.....	6,238	3,635	72,203	70,283
Other South America.....	21,783	18,857	151,147	190,804
<b>Sewing machines and parts of</b> ( <i>Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Máquinas de coser e accessorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties</i> )—				
Central America .....	265	2,294	13,869	20,960
Mexico.....	18,850	44,726	136,709	185,727
Santo Domingo .....	162	525	1,339	1,589
Cuba.....	783	5,551	3,521	52,485
Porto Rico.....	59	58	1,240	1,466
Argentine Republic.....	35,034	5,546	104,228	111,468
Brazil.....	10,573	9,478	59,741	88,283
Colombia.....	3,088	456	43,500	9,963
Other South America.....	11,135	14,184	88,058	112,314
<b>Typewriting machines and parts of</b> ( <i>Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Máquinas de escribir e accessorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties</i> )—				
Central America .....	248	91	1,845	1,809
Mexico.....	6,496	4,450	23,458	35,661
Santo Domingo .....	.....	.....	130	106
Cuba.....	3,860	2,990	10,394	18,144
Porto Rico.....	404	.....	2,735	1,559
Argentine Republic.....	1,192	1,675	17,481	26,760
Brazil.....	1,285	950	3,795	8,047
Colombia.....	210	295	2,494	1,695
Other South America.....	4,175	2,685	13,468	17,833
<b>Leather, other than sole</b> ( <i>Cuero, distinto del de suelo; Couro não para solas; Cuir, autres que pour semelles</i> ):				
Central America .....	337	2,619	7,509	16,626
Mexico.....	242	4,206	5,301	28,055
Santo Domingo .....	80	287	1,237	661
Cuba.....	1,306	3,434	4,512	25,075
Porto Rico.....	515	165	3,387	2,624
Argentine Republic.....	6,226	720	21,056	42,017
Brazil.....	757	7,970	24,953	59,370
Colombia.....	252	220	1,378	1,610
Other South America.....	4,767	4,540	21,369	28,081

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Boots and shoes (<i>Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	\$6,448	\$3,128	\$60,741	\$95,565
Mexico .....	18,915	24,942	93,686	231,773
Colombia .....	1,602	3,618	21,326	36,064
Other South America .....	1,238	2,073	28,338	26,113
<b>Naval stores:</b>				
Rosin, tar, etc. ( <i>Resina y alquitran; Resina e alcatrão; Résine et goudron</i> )—				
Central America .....	1,528	806	10,366	9,228
Mexico .....	194	279	5,946	4,739
Santo Domingo .....	21	145	1,947	1,878
Cuba .....	626	269	4,457	10,511
Porto Rico .....	29	32	817	1,287
Argentine Republic .....	1,230	-----	70,285	121,994
Brazil .....	3,794	4,131	121,687	105,908
Colombia .....	291	285	7,885	6,259
Other South America .....	2,811	3,722	58,234	69,797
<b>Turpentine, spirits of (<i>Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	325	994	2,200	4,612
Mexico .....	570	163	2,802	2,573
Santo Domingo .....	106	45	431	293
Cuba .....	4,593	3,923	16,941	33,418
Porto Rico .....	421	68	1,829	2,238
Argentine Republic .....	-----	9,252	24,967	99,230
Brazil .....	2,406	6,201	33,357	47,746
Colombia .....	731	744	4,148	3,067
Other South America .....	3,633	3,148	24,283	42,727
<b>Oils, mineral, crude (<i>Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos minerales, crus; Huiles minérales, brutes</i>):</b>				
Mexico .....	8,510	41,769	196,410	276,689
Cuba .....	14,044	9,237	125,337	218,334
Porto Rico .....	-----	10,186	-----	19,519
<b>Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (<i>Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	8,786	18,802	83,354	97,737
Mexico .....	22,838	17,965	109,904	128,175
Santo Domingo .....	111	4,216	23,195	31,277
Cuba .....	9,602	6,350	72,867	52,150
Porto Rico .....	2,715	1,425	45,430	22,618
Argentine Republic .....	69,579	96,542	466,266	1,029,554
Brazil .....	99,200	113,406	1,037,163	1,224,607
Colombia .....	3,353	13,315	72,468	86,632
Other South America .....	57,420	88,969	446,543	771,020
<b>Oils, vegetable (<i>Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetaes; Huiles végétales</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	405	727	2,752	4,835
Mexico .....	35,424	53,115	302,622	599,240
Santo Domingo .....	386	2,972	15,503	20,537
Cuba .....	444	706	5,320	28,604
Argentine Republic .....	2,349	5,839	16,335	26,252
Brazil .....	13,293	13,127	130,567	129,029
Other South America .....	9,815	8,910	55,616	80,770
<b>Paraffin and paraffin wax (<i>Parafina y cera de parafina; Paraffina e cera de paraffina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	1,592	4,676	17,891	24,183
Mexico .....	33,939	29,123	157,810	239,067
Brazil .....	338	1,916	8,546	12,584
Other South America .....	100	7,235	3,855	20,221
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:</b>				
Beef, canned ( <i>Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vaca em latas; Bœuf conservé</i> )—				
Central America .....	1,853	1,556	12,926	19,399
Mexico .....	2,318	1,901	11,634	14,316
Santo Domingo .....	-----	10	43	76
Cuba .....	2,527	166	10,186	4,234
Argentine Republic .....	552	-----	878	385
Brazil .....	3,715	3,710	13,640	28,514
Colombia .....	490	1,315	2,903	7,141
Other South America .....	836	1,384	7,110	15,837

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—</b>				
Continued.				
Beef, salted or pickled ( <i>Carne de vaca, salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumuré</i> )—				
Central America.....	\$990	\$3,450	\$19,825	\$27,621
Mexico.....	230	32	568	1,737
Santo Domingo.....	111	193	2,242	2,869
Cuba.....	5,313	356	21,574	6,684
Porto Rico.....	77	20	653	1,484
Brazil.....	192	660	2,066	4,082
Colombia.....	663	2,097	7,845	13,715
Other South America.....	11,272	14,707	130,385	122,775
Tallow ( <i>Sebo; Sebo; Suif</i> )—				
Central America.....	5,543	6,993	57,252	51,653
Mexico.....	1,169	1,379	22,318	16,421
Santo Domingo.....		1,862	5,454	9,094
Cuba.....	374	190	18,736	2,119
Porto Rico.....			303	467
Brazil.....	1,500	17,819	31,831	29,538
Colombia.....	1,641	181	6,343	7,622
Other South America.....	4,355	10,138	16,426	40,748
Bacon ( <i>Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé</i> )—				
Central America.....	987	1,637	11,871	17,376
Mexico.....	1,148	2,418	9,517	16,050
Santo Domingo.....	6	72	951	1,381
Cuba.....	57,783	52,655	309,424	559,423
Porto Rico.....	5,704	5,059	42,459	45,663
Brazil.....	33,929	7,024	365,150	97,656
Colombia.....	318	469	1,167	1,656
Other South America.....	968	1,287	10,300	5,296
Hams ( <i>Jamones; Presunto; Jambons</i> )—				
Central America.....	1,672	1,845	14,885	20,659
Mexico.....	3,237	2,515	21,749	31,908
Santo Domingo.....	243	625	4,468	4,077
Cuba.....	57,267	46,731	326,985	474,745
Porto Rico.....	1,423	2,251	7,162	27,673
Brazil.....	164	32	2,719	2,841
Colombia.....	882	1,709	8,503	12,213
Other South America.....	6,752	2,752	56,559	52,048
Pork ( <i>Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc</i> )—				
Central America.....	4,411	6,716	41,527	50,961
Santo Domingo.....	242	291	3,260	4,797
Cuba.....	6,710	60,389	22,289	267,782
Porto Rico.....	15,344	16,041	92,519	144,408
Brazil.....	131	17	5,840	2,556
Colombia.....	476	1,607	4,672	28,608
Other South America.....	19,084	18,028	162,567	118,582
Lard ( <i>Manteca; Banha; Saindoux</i> )—				
Central America.....	12,610	17,305	93,549	121,194
Mexico.....	12,621	41,127	109,559	322,050
Santo Domingo.....	520	1,457	15,914	13,750
Cuba.....	125,283	132,928	847,354	1,267,951
Porto Rico.....	15,975	23,096	151,600	173,993
Argentine Republic.....		602	1,421	3,511
Brazil.....	69,675	51,813	837,877	544,911
Colombia.....	4,297	11,625	50,995	94,384
Other South America.....	38,070	59,845	376,293	502,779
Oleo and oleomargarine ( <i>Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo ó oleomargarina; Oléo et oléomargarine</i> )—				
Central America.....	317	704	1,329	4,834
Mexico.....	124	240	573	982
Porto Rico.....	3,249	1,010	12,468	14,179
Colombia.....	1,170	1,601	6,223	6,963
Other South America.....	2,075	2,165	12,559	12,106
Butter ( <i>Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre</i> )—				
Central America.....	3,650	3,507	30,792	36,748
Mexico.....	5,146	3,714	32,531	29,922
Santo Domingo.....	94	2,622	6,655	6,933
Cuba.....	21,767	6,161	63,829	36,338
Porto Rico.....	1,808	271	6,642	1,667
Brazil.....	10,517	6,147	105,518	138,822
Colombia.....	521	551	8,267	10,005
Other South America.....	11,167	2,913	79,149	96,987

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	February—		Eight months ending February—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—</b>				
Continued.				
<b>Cheese (<i>Queso; Queijo; Fromage</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	\$1,288	\$2,146	\$11,058	\$16,401
Mexico .....	1,855	2,216	11,699	17,073
Santo Domingo .....	132	505	2,814	4,355
Cuba .....	9,596	4,734	52,808	27,378
Porto Rico .....	2,196	1,455	8,123	19,116
Brazil .....			568	69
Colombia .....	359	758	4,961	5,743
Other South America .....	894	707	9,904	8,749
<b>Seeds (<i>Semillas; Sementes; Semence</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	495	339	2,335	1,974
Mexico .....	3,213	3,995	11,617	13,226
Santo Domingo .....	20	84	98	568
Cuba .....	74	93	2,901	3,617
Porto Rico .....	23	47	112	282
Argentine Republic .....			2,432	1,790
Brazil .....	123	22	719	262
Colombia .....	139	100	1,071	648
Other South America .....	99	414	1,271	2,109
<b>Sugar, refined (<i>Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	903	3,421	11,526	23,864
Mexico .....	4,566	246	12,323	16,919
Santo Domingo .....	112	78	950	486
Colombia .....	931	1,079	8,803	8,019
Other South America .....	135		1,518	1,549
<b>Tobacco, unmanufactured (<i>Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	3,208	878	13,806	18,897
Mexico .....	16,919	2,670	97,719	115,269
Argentine Republic .....	2,000	720	14,455	6,623
Colombia .....	148	2,648	3,649	7,285
Other South America .....	10,395	11,059	65,733	68,395
<b>Tobacco, manufactures of (<i>Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	4,559	5,401	36,162	37,909
Mexico .....	450	1,316	8,282	4,457
Cuba .....	21,705	19,151	81,158	107,992
Argentine Republic .....	175	3,192	4,161	21,764
Brazil .....			500	352
Colombia .....	492	1,203	3,360	4,566
Other South America .....	5,330	4,621	55,801	33,141
<b>Wood, unmanufactured (<i>Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	1,749	3,974	22,433	12,837
Mexico .....	11,609	5,122	214,026	132,510
Cuba .....	3,860	6,555	22,123	38,219
Argentine Republic .....	438	827	12,744	14,429
Brazil .....			4,284	
Colombia .....	168	177	20,194	6,881
Other South America .....		4,100	14,100	62,644
<b>Lumber (<i>Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	1,599	3,748	35,185	32,582
Mexico .....	74,360	77,695	479,792	669,228
Santo Domingo .....	3,855	2,702	17,931	17,268
Cuba .....	105,490	96,917	418,038	607,186
Porto Rico .....	4,187	22,902	17,133	130,521
Argentine Republic .....	42,658	225,883	655,145	873,867
Brazil .....	25,110	5,246	283,887	300,978
Colombia .....	1,368	3,760	26,374	50,603
Other South America .....	30,964	40,928	322,399	388,131
<b>Furniture (<i>Muebles; Mobília; Meubles</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	2,114	5,653	26,094	31,624
Mexico .....	24,792	26,548	145,723	248,850
Santo Domingo .....	700	496	4,484	4,148
Cuba .....	9,223	26,855	27,589	199,183
Porto Rico .....	1,561		7,498	22,784
Argentine Republic .....	13,640	2,372	48,259	79,260
Brazil .....	1,738	2,156	19,979	28,551
Colombia .....	2,195	790	17,658	11,697
Other South America .....	4,211	2,122	44,973	42,894

**NEW CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM LATIN AMERICA.**

The following consular officers from Latin American countries have been recognized by the United States Government, according to the report of the Department of State:

FELICÍSIMO LÓPEZ, Consul-General of Ecuador at New York; JUAN HENRIQUÉZ, Consul-General of the Dominican Republic at San Juan, Porto Rico; ELÍAS GONZÁLES ESTEVES, Consul-General of Venezuela at New York; JOAQUÍN SANSÓN, Consul-General of Nicaragua at New Orleans; AUGUSTÍN PIÑA, Consul of Mexico at Tucson, Arizona; ESCIPCIÓN CANAL, Consul of Colombia at San Francisco, California; AFFONSO ARNOLDO RUTIS, Consul of Paraguay at Philadelphia; OSCAR HÜTLINGER, Consul of the Dominican Republic at New York; WILLIAM HARPER, Consul of Colombia at Philadelphia; M. AVILA BLANCO, Consul of Venezuela at San Juan, Porto Rico; JOSÉ MIGUEL MORALES Y ALVARADO, Honorary Vice-Consul of Venezuela at Ponce, Porto Rico; ALBERTO BRAVO, Vice-Consul of the Dominican Republic at Mayaguez, Porto Rico; JOSÉ BLANCH, Vice-Consul of Haiti at Mayaguez, Porto Rico; AUGUSTO MONTEIRA DE ALVARENGA, Vice-Consul of Brazil at Philadelphia; JOSÉ ANTONIO VELUTINI, Vice-Consul of Venezuela at New York.

**THE WESTERN TANNIN PLANT.**

The "Deutsch-Amerikanische Gewerbe-Zeitung" publishes the following information on a new tannin plant which grows in great abundance on the banks of the Mississippi and its branches. It is believed, according to this journal, that this plant can replace the oak bark and other substances which are used in tanneries for the preparation of hides. "It is called Western tannin plant, and the quantity which is raised along the great American river is so great that it would suffice to supply the different tanneries of the entire world."

This plant contains 18 per cent of tannin; oak bark contains only from 10 to 12 per cent. It follows that in equal quantity it will tan 50 per cent more hides than the oak bark. The crop is annual and is harvested the same as hay. It is cut, left to dry, and then stacked. The plants when well dried are pressed in an hydraulic machine and then made into bales, to be transported in the ordinary way. This new plant is employed the same as the oak bark, with the difference, however, that the hide treated with this new product is softer and finer, while at the same time being more solid and more brilliant. There has been for some time a factory at Lincoln, Nebraska, for the preparation of this new raw material, which realizes large profits. Large shipments have been sent by this factory to Chicago, where important houses are intending to exploit this new method of tanning.

**MONOGRAPH ON PATAGONIAN BIRDS.**

Prof. W. E. D. SCOTT, curator of the ornithological department of Princeton University, has gone to England to study the birds collected in the British Museum and compare them with specimens recently procured from Patagonia. The result of his researches will be embodied in a monograph on the birds of Patagonia, which will be the first of a series of publications dealing with the Princeton Patagonian expedition, of which Professor SCOTT will be editor in chief.

**MISSOURI FARMERS IN MEXICO.**

A special dispatch to the "Chicago Record," dated March 18, 1900, states that a colony of 400 farmers from the State of Missouri in the United States is to be established in the valley of the Concho River, in the State of Chihuahua. The promoters of the colonization scheme are reported to have purchased 200,000 acres of the rich valley land. A few of the colonists are stated to have already arrived, and the remainder will reach Mexico in time to put in crops for the season.

**HONOLULU, HAWAII, REPORTED FREE OF PLAGUE.**

A message from Honolulu, dated March 24, states that the board of health of that city had practically decided that the bubonic plague had run its course. At that time no cases had developed for more than a week. The members of the board are reported to be convinced that quarantine restrictions regarding the shipments of merchandise from Honolulu, except merchandise from Asiatic ports, will soon be rescinded.

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**URUGUAY.****MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.**

On February 15, 1900, Señor Don JUAN L. CUESTAS, President of the Republic of Uruguay, addressed his message to the General Assembly of the nation upon the inauguration of the second session of the Twentieth Legislature. The more salient points of the message here follow:

**PLANS OF THE GOVERNMENT.**

"The Government has been intent upon the ever-growing progress of the country. The campaign to develop its resources and increase its industries has required various dispositions tending to bring this about. Manufacturing is gradually spreading in the capital and in the populated centers in proportion to the elements there existing.

railroads, the telegraph, and the telephone, extending themselves, carry their powerful action to all the centers they reach. A true manifestation of the progress achieved in the pastoral campaign have been the expositions which have been held in the cities and towns of some departments. The improvement of the breeds constituting the pastoral wealth gives evidence of the good condition of the principal industry of the country and the advance made therein. The Government has assisted, as far as in its power lay, to encourage these expositions which stimulate the cattle raiser and the introduction of breeds intended for reproduction, to which all those privileges have been granted which are consonant with the laws of the land.

"Agriculture has also assumed proportions worthy of claiming high rank in the general wealth. It is to the farmers and their noble devotion to industry and labor that the improvement in the general interests of the country is due. The farms are the prime factors in the prosperity of the nation. Commerce and industry in general, aided by order and peace, will carry the Republic rapidly forward. The data presented by the customs statistics confirm this assertion. In 1898 and 1899 the imports show a value of about \$24,000,000 per year. The exports, which in 1898 were \$30,000,000, in 1899 grew to \$37,000,000. These figures alone are sufficient to give a most eloquent proof of the progress of the country and its onward march. It is the first time since we began our independent life that the proofs of the national labor have shown themselves in so admirable a way. It may be asserted, without the fear of falling into error, that the Republic has reached the highest point in the material progress of nations in comparison with the density of its population. \* \* \*

\* \* \* "The Executive Power, following the economic principle pursuant to which the proper distribution of the real estate tax should be based upon a full knowledge of the value of property, issued the decree of October 12 last, providing for the establishment of the registration of property, which will at any moment permit the appreciation of and follow all the transfers in real estate. The listing of real property has been confided to a Central Commission of competent citizens, engineers, and public officers, which will limit its trust to the city of Montevideo and its environments, being authorized to appoint the subcommissions it may deem advisable for the better execution of so important a work. The Central Commission has already begun its task with commendable energy, by entering upon the preliminary studies and plans which are indispensable to the taking up of the work itself. The Executive Power entertains the full conviction that in a relatively short time these labors, of vital importance to our national interests and the economic future of the country, will be definitively terminated.



## GENERAL CENSUS.

“The compilation of the demographic census of the Republic becomes indispensable in order to provide irrefutable testimony of our vitality and of our progress. For this reason the Executive Power hastened to issue the decree of November 17, last, providing for the taking of the general census of the population of the whole territory of the Republic, with the exception of that of the capital, which will be taken later—an operation to be intrusted to an Executive Committee charged with the preparation, direction, and complete performance of all the labor indispensably necessary thereto. Pursuant to this decree the census will be taken on March 1, 1900, in all the suburban departments. The system which has been adopted for the execution of the work will allow it to be realized with notable rapidity and without large outlays of the public Treasury, as the expenses will be limited to the salaries of clerks and the necessary printing. Upon providing for the taking of the census of the population of the Republic a prescription of the Constitution, forgotten ever since 1860, has been carried into execution. \* \* \*

## POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

“The institutions of the postal and telegraph systems have merited the preferred attention of my Government. \* \* \*

“The fusion of the national posts and telegraph—analogous services by nature, and by their purposes; identical services, in a word—has brought about the expected results. Operating under the same roof, under the same direction, they can mutually assist each other in the carrying out of their delicate mission; the unequivocal proof of this being the increase of their revenues, the growing business which in the year 1899 was evidenced by the 39 postal-telegraphic offices, sending 131,872 dispatches, bringing in the sum of \$56,498.70, and the handling of 5,090,681 pieces of mail matter more than during the year 1898, or 37,238,356 pieces, representing receipts to the amount of \$240,645.25, to which amount there have contributed, besides the central office, 18 principal offices established in the departmental seats, 52 branch offices, or second-class offices, operating in the more important centers by reason of population and trade, 650 agencies of the third class distributed in the capital and in the interior, 15 perambulating offices, running over our railways, and 6 on the steamships in the Uruguay River service.

“It would be almost unnecessary to state that the economic progress of this institution is wholly satisfying. The general movement of its revenues in the year 1899 reached the amount of \$330,956.49, with a surplus of \$19,194.41 in excess of the receipts for 1898. With its

own receipts it has each month covered the estimates, and has been enabled to effect many and varied improvements which were necessary to its perfect operation. It has acquired in fee an area of 1,384 square meters, 70 decimeters, on Miguelete street, between Yaguarón and Médanos, wherein commodious and hygienic offices for the service and special departments for the storage of telegraphic materials have been constructed. As several of its dependencies are situated away from the Central Office, thus making impossible the constant vigilance which the General Directory should exercise over them, there will be finished in a short time the construction of an addition to the Post-Office, which will permit the centralizing of its offices, regulating of its operations, and economizing of the large sums spent monthly in the way of rent.

"The telegraph lines, the length of which is now 1,655 kilometers, are in greater part in perfect state, and will soon feel the impulse which will be given them by their junction with the Argentine national lines, through the convention submitted to the approval of the General Assembly and will soon also be connected with the Brazilian national telegraph system, to which end important negotiations are now being conducted. I do not think far off the hour when we shall see these unions realized, for I trust in the patriotic spirit of the Senators and Deputies and rely upon their assistance in a work whose magnitude will mark a page of progress in the history of our national telegraphs. In consonance with these ideas, the construction of some kilometers of line from Conchillas to Martín Chico has been authorized, at which latter point our telegraph system will connect with that of the Argentine Republic; and in the desire to obtain perfect working, the line uniting Colonia with the former of the points named has been repaired, and the acquisition in Europe of 600 kilometers of bronze wire to be exclusively devoted to the service, which now only awaits the sanction of the General Assembly is planned. \* \* \*

#### FOREIGN RELATIONS.

\* \* \* \* \*

"I have thought, in the first place, that it was expedient for us to encourage our commercial interchange, and to this end, after harkening to the mature opinion of the Chambers of Commerce and of some distinguished members of the upper trade circles, I propose for the consideration of the Governments of France, Germany, England, and Italy the reestablishment of the former commercial convention which had lapsed, limiting them only to the term of one year, within which time we might negotiate other agreements with reciprocal advantages for the respective States. In this way the want of foresight previously manifested of having denounced the treaties without being prepared beforehand for new negotiations might be obviated. The

absolute want of commercial conventions with those countries deprived us of the enjoyment of the benefits of the minimum tariff rates which are applied in Europe only to the products of nations bound to them by international compacts. To this result, then, the conventions lately submitted to the consideration of the General Assembly, of which those with France and Germany have already been ratified, have been directed. There is before you for consideration the general treaty of arbitration concluded with the Argentine Government by the terms of which the manner and form are provided for settling amicably and expediently the questions that may arise between the two countries.

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“We have also negotiated with the said Government a convention relating to the importation and exportation of cattle between this Government and that for the purpose of guaranteeing the healthy condition of this article of commerce. This negotiation was urgently demanded by our cattle raisers and exporters, to whose wants we should attend, without prejudice to the measures of an administrative character which it was advisable to adopt to prevent the introduction of cattle attacked with contagious diseases or suspected of having the same. The convention referred to reconciles all interests, and establishes the procedure to be adopted for the introduction of the cattle, without prejudice to either country, equally interested in the encouragement of that important branch of international trade.

“There is before the General Assembly for consideration the telegraphic convention concluded between our Department of Posts and Telegraphs and the Argentine Republic, with the laudable object of establishing a complete telegraphic service with that country, Paraguay, and Bolivia under very advantageous conditions for the public, without any surcharge. The international rates to be charged for telegrams coming from abroad or addressed thereto are also agreed upon.

“\* \* \* The documents of ratification on the part of the Republic of the conventions concluded in the Postal Congress of Washington, wherein all the modifications and improvements counseled by experience and practice subsequent to the Congresses of Lisbon and Vienna, formerly engaged upon this subject, are adopted, have been sent to the United States to be deposited in the Department of State.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

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“Pursuant to the laws of November 7 last, approving the definitive plan for the execution of the harbor works in the Bay of Montevideo formulated by the engineer, Don ADOLFO GUÉRARD, upon the bases of the previous plans of KÜMMER-GUÉRARD, but limiting the contract letting to what may be deemed indispensable for the present, the Executive Power, on the 16th of said month addressed the said engineer,

GUÉRARD, instructing him to prepare the final plans which are to serve for the letting of the contract. These plans, together with the specifications, will be ready by the end of the month of March. There were also sent to the said engineer the observations prepared by the National Department of Engineers relative to the final location of some of the works, in order that he might take them into account should they, in his judgment, make for economy in the project.

“The Executive Power having been authorized to contract for the construction of the work within the sum of \$12,500,000, gold, calling for bids from first-class firms that may have executed important undertakings of a similar nature, the Government, participating in the general desire which animates the whole population of the Republic that the execution of this great problem be accelerated, deems it expedient to at once exercise the authority conferred without awaiting the forwarding to Montevideo of the definitive plans intrusted to Señor GUÉRARD. To this end it primarily ordered the translation into the French, English, German, and Italian languages of the laws promulgated on November 7 and their publication for their better dissemination. After collecting information it prepared a list of the principal contracting firms of England, France, Germany, United States, Belgium, Italy, and Holland, comprising a total of 26 firms, to which were sent by the end of December all the antecedents, plans, laws, and documents, for the proper study of the subject.

“They were also sent a long explanatory note, calling the special attention of each of them to the subject in order that they might present their bids, the 31st of July of 1900 being fixed as the latest date for the filing of the same. The contracting firms have been informed that as the construction and location of the works which it is intended to undertake at present are determined in the plans and reports that have been sent them, they might enter upon the study on these bases of the general lines of their bids, completing the same when they shall have received the final plans intrusted on November 16, 1899, to Señor GUÉRARD. In thus acting the Executive Power has advanced the work and gained time, so that perhaps the construction of the work may be begun during the current year. Among the antecedents sent out there figures a statement of our foreign commerce, showing the probable amount of revenue available for the construction of the work, which is calculated at \$1,100,000 gold per year, a most important sum, upon which any financial combination may rely without fear. This fact, the ample guaranty provided by the laws, and the seriousness and importance of the studies that have been made, are essential factors which permit entertaining the hope that at last the harbor works of Montevideo will be taken out of the field of great national aspirations and be converted into a fruitful fact for the Republic.

“Aside from the great questions of harbors and public highways,

which are treated under separate headings, because of the importance they involve for the Republic, the Executive Power will also endeavor to give favorable impulse to the following, which are also of undeniable importance and are seriously demanded:

"1. Extension of the Northeastern Railway, now terminating at Nico Pérez, which it is important should be carried at least to Melo.

"2. Rapid and cheap communication between the capital and the Departments of the East, either through the extension of the Eastern Uruguayan Railway, now terminating at Sierra, or by the establishment of a regular line of mail steamers connecting with rural steam tramways, starting from the ports of Maldonado and La Paloma.

"3. Termination of the works at the Almirón Passage, already far advanced, which will transform Paysandú into a port of entry.

"4. Preservation and improvement of the works already executed on the Negro River and the Arroyo de las Vacas.

"5. Construction of the Government Palace.

"6. Construction of school buildings in the capital and in the Departments of the interior, there already being under negotiation an advantageous and well-guaranteed proposition.

#### RAILWAY LINES.

"Upon the inauguration of the Constitutional Government the State had already complied on its part with nearly all the obligations by it assumed as a contract party with the company then styled the Western Railways Company, pursuant to the terms of the contract of May 30, 1896. By this contract the company undertook the construction of a system of railways, the main line of which starts from the city of San José and runs to that of Mercedes, with a branch line to the port of Sauce, by way of Rosario, and another branch to Colonia; and the construction of the port of Sauce with a capacity for a trade movement of 500,000 tons, susceptible of being increased to 1,000,000, and for vessels of from 18 to 20 feet draft to go alongside wharves, with the warehouses, appurtenances, and other necessary belongings. Every section of railroad, with all rolling stock, tracks, stations, shops, and other appurtenances would revert to the State sixty years after having been placed in the service of the public. On its part the State was to contribute £600,000 in bonds of the consolidated debt, deposited in the house of GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & Co., of London, for the exclusive purpose of effecting the arrangements with the Western Railways (Article I of the Convention of August 26, 1891), and all the material, lands, personal property, and other chattels that the Uruguayan Company, Limited, should deliver to the State pursuant to the arrangement concluded with it in London on December 2, 1895, under the same conditions on which the Government should receive them according to the said arrangement.

“On February 28, 1897, the delivery of money on account to the company began in the way of provisional certificates issued by the Government Engineer in payment of work executed, material acquired, transportation paid, and other elements accumulated by the company. The Provisional Government authorized the last provisional certificate under date of September 3, 1898, for the balance of the subsidy, after the performance of the condition resting upon the company of placing the city of San José and the port of Sauce in communication with temporary train service. There were also delivered opportunely to the company the plans, materials, utensils, tools, and other chattels existing in the warehouses of London, Montevideo, and Colonia, all of which was received through inventory with the interventions of the Government Engineers, after the official declaration that the Government waived any greater or smaller differences that might exist, as it considered them sufficiently compensated for. There was also deeded to the company 9,592.45 square meters of ground, equivalent of 13,000 *varas*, situate in Colonia, with the wharves, buildings, and other existing constructions, which said ground the Government had acquired pursuant to the Convention of December 2, 1895, approved by law of May 26, 1896. As may be noticed, the State has performed, with a spirit of equity, the obligations imposed upon it by that contract by furnishing the company with all those elements and resources when it was in a critical state, which, had it continued, would certainly have wrought its destruction as a commercial entity.

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“Subsequently, as the necessity of traffic demanded it, the Government has been temporarily habilitating that part of the railway line which, in the opinion of the experts, possessed sufficient conditions of security for the transportation of freight. Primarily, in January, 1898, there was authorized on the responsibility of the company, and the latter assuming all the risks, the temporary transportation of cereals between Villa del Rosario and the port of Sauce, a provisional tariff being then promulgated, which included the cost of transportation over the line and wharfage and loading charges at the port. This provision assisted the movement of a part of the crop in the Departments of the West. A year later, on January 13, 1899, authority was also granted for the utilizing in the transportation of freight of the railway constructed between Sauce, Rosario, and San José, in view of the fair condition of the work, which was well advanced, and other tariff rates were also provisionally approved, which rates the Government reserved the right to modify whenever it should deem the same advisable, at the same time imposing on the company the improvement in certain important technical details referred to in the reports of the inspecting engineers.

“Later, on November 17, 1899, in consideration of the advantages

that would accrue to the defective means of communication in that section of the country through a railroad service for passengers and freight, the San José-Sauce Line was provisionally habilitated, the company being bound under bond and assuming all risks to complete the work on the final project following the suggestion made by the Government engineers. Pursuant to the stipulations of the original contract of May 30, 1896, the Government authorized, under date of August 10, 1899, the assignment of the concession for the Western Railway to the company styled "The Central Uruguay Western Railway (Limited)," incorporated in London for that special purpose, whose charter had been submitted to the approval of the Executive Power in conformity with clause 8 of said contract of concession. In the exercise of the said authority there was executed in London on August 25 of the said year the deed of conveyance and assignment, and, apprised of its terms, the Government approved the same under date of November 10 last, the cessioner being bound to assume all the obligations, liabilities, securities, and guaranties contracted by the grantor pursuant to the laws governing the concession and necessarily incorporated in it, to wit, the law of October 6, 1897, and that of October 12, 1899.

"In view of the high standing of the commercial firm that has assumed charge of the undertaking and the effective guarantees upon which the contract rests, the Government at present entertains the assurance that within the legal term the Western Railway, which will place Montevideo in communication with Rosario, Sauce, Colonia, and Mercedes, will be a positive fact, closely binding important cities which, up to the present time, have lived in almost entire isolation in a fruitful ambient of agricultural and pastoral production. By the month of June, 1901, the railroad will have reached Colonia, and will reach Mercedes in February, 1902. These dates are estimated in view of the extension of twenty-eight months granted by the law, dated October 12, 1899. The assignee company, styled 'The Uruguay Western Railway and Port, Limited,' has undertaken the construction and exploitation of the port of Sauce, which is now independent of the construction and operation of the Western Line, which is all that is ceded to the Central Uruguay Western Railway, although this modification of the original negotiation will not affect the liabilities and guarantees set forth in the contract of May 30, 1896, and the law of October 6, 1897, relating to the execution, realization, and enjoyment of the concessions referred to therein. From the month of February, 1898, when the provisional traffic was authorized, up to the end of 1899, the movement of the port of Sauce has been represented by 20,567 tons of freight, made up of sheepskins, wool, wheat, animals on the hoof, cheese, alfalfa, flour, paper, sand, cut and rough stone, railroad material, etc."

\* \* \* \* \*

"The railroad movement for the fiscal year 1898-99 was as follows:

	Kilometers.
Total length of railways in operation.....	1,604,831.94
Length of railways under construction.....	1,909,143.43
Total .....	3,513,975.37

"Among the latter the western railways figure with a length of 300 kilometers, 104 of which have been habilitated provisionally. Of the total length of lines in operation 1,149,708.94 kilometers enjoy a Government subsidy, 450,123 kilometers are operated without guarantee, making a total of 1,604,831.94 kilometers. The capital invested up to date in the 1,604,831.94 kilometers of railway in operation amounts to \$46,817,972.70, or an average of \$29,173.13 per kilometer of line. The capital represented by the subsidized line, at the rate of \$33,500 per kilometer, is \$27,018,160.09. The gross revenues of the operated lines during the fiscal year 1898-99 was \$2,401,823.60. The total number of passengers carried was 992,243, the kilometers run having been 27,887,116. The freight traffic was represented by 580,234 tons and the kilometers run were 78,074,788. The increase observable in the said traffic, as compared to the years 1896-97 and 1897-98, is 21.48 and 6.57 per cent, respectively. There were expended in operating expenses \$1,486,605.39, as follows:

On subsidized lines.....	\$720,452.70
On unsubsidized lines .....	766,152.69

"The net profits from the operation of the line amounted to \$946,409.92, including in this total the Central Railroad, as follows: Subsidized sections, \$267,122.86; unsubsidized sections, \$679,287.06. The amount of interest payable annually is as follows: In the way of guaranties \$945,635.59; and the amount paid out on the dates set by the law was \$817,397.13, leaving a profit to the States of \$128,238.46. This profit is derived from the operation of the following lines: Eastern extension of the Central Railway (line to Nico Pérez), \$97,699.13; Northeastern Branch (line to Minas), \$30,539.33. During the years 1896-97 and 1897-98 this profit was \$41,523.81 and \$91,312.75, respectively.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

"The educational movement continues advancing slowly. I ought to state as a satisfactory showing that during the past year there were 563 public schools open in the Republic, which shows an increase over the year 1898 of 20 schools. The enrollment of pupils was 51,633, a figure showing an increase of 1,900 over the previous year. The data as to average attendance were still more satisfactory, the figures being 37,685 in the year 1899, which shows an increase of 3,040 over the average attendance in the year 1898. The increase in the average attendance being nearly double that of newly enrolled pupils,



it must be concluded that the habit of school attendance is becoming more prevalent, undoubtedly because the public schools are improving slowly, but surely. The number of teachers was 1,104, which shows that only 35 more teachers were employed than in the year 1898. Private instruction has shown no improvement worthy of note.

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#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CATTLE.

“The Government being deeply interested in the promotion of our principal industry—cattle raising—it submitted to your honors, on May 5, 1899, a bill regulating the importing and exporting of cattle on the hoof, the preparation of which was intrusted to the Rural Association of Uruguay. This method of exploitation interests the country from two fundamental points of view which the bill has not disregarded. One relates to the trade in and reproduction of breeds, and the other to sanitary police as regards the diseases of animals which may be prejudicial to their health and to the food of man. There was also submitted to the consideration of your honors, under date of November 6, 1899, the international convention negotiated and signed in Buenos Ayres on October 26 of that year relative to the importation and exportation of cattle between this Republic and the Argentine, for the purpose of guaranteeing its good sanitary condition. By this convention, which is still pending before you, ports in both countries are habilitated, veterinary inspection is provided for, as also the health certificate in the country of origin of the cattle and the proper formalities to be followed, the prohibition of entry of animals attacked by contagious or suspicious diseases, the rejection of cattle from abroad, and, in a word, all those measures conducive to the carrying out of these prescriptions having in view the public health and the guaranteeing of the immunity of the cattle are provided for. \* \* \* Until a complete service of veterinary inspection, provided with all the necessary elements for prophylactic and efficacious remedies, is organized, the designation for a single point for disembarking and a lazaretto as well as of the service of sanitary inspection has been left to the Administrative and Executive Board of the Capital.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### WOOL AND CEREALS.

“The prices brought by wools in the year just ended were extraordinary; never before known. It was an exceptional year; due also to extraordinary circumstances. The production of wheat, affected at the time of sowing by an excess of rain and by a great drought at harvest time, presents a varied aspect of fair crops in some Departments and of good crops in others, forming an average which exceeds

the total production of the previous year, owing to the greater area of land under cultivation. The exports of this grain, as well as those of flour, have remained rather lax during the year, as the unforeseen necessities abroad which created the great demand of the previous year did not exist. Corn has remained at a low price, and the production would have been abundant during this season—larger areas having been put under it—had not the drought, which threatened a negative result for the crops of this breadstuff, been prolonged in an extraordinary manner. Despite this, it may be said that in general the prices of cereals, although not high, are remunerative, this being a circumstance which encourages the farmers in their labors.

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

#### PRODUCTION OF GOLD.

“The only mines being worked in the country are the gold mines in the Department of Rivera. The exploitation of these mines, after having passed through a violent crisis, is beginning to revive, owing to the laudable efforts of the company styled ‘Établissements Français de l’Uruguay,’ which has acquired several of the most important mines of the auriferous region of Corrales and Cuñapirú. This company proposes now to unite all these mines by a railway connecting with the Usina Central, and thus take advantage, for the traction and working of the ores, of the 360 horsepower furnished by the six turbines located on the left bank of the Cuñapirú. For the complete development of this plan, which doubtless will transform that mining region, the company has laid before the Executive Power a petition for exemption from customs duties on certain materials to be imported, which petition is now being studied by the proper ministry. Undoubtedly the gold mines of the country are not rich, but they contain disseminated a great quantity of gold, which can be taken advantage of partially through judicious working and the employment of perfected metallurgical processes which the experience of other countries will afford.”

The message here contains a table showing the production of gold during the last five years, from which it appears that the yield of 1898 was: Ores worked, 5,235 tons 520 kilograms; product in gold, 74 kilograms 700 grams; product per ton, 14 grams 260 milligrams; value of ore per ton, \$6.35; proceeds of sale of gold, \$33,245.55 in Uruguayan currency.

The most important point to be deduced from the table is the increase in the richness of the ore treated. In the year 1895 each ton of ore only contained gold to the value of \$3.45, while in the years 1897 and 1898 the gold contained in each ton of ore was worth \$6.02 and \$6.35. In the previous years, when the production was greater, quartz was treated which only contained \$2.25 of gold per ton.

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

The portion of the message relating to finances is very long and shows the great efforts that the Administration has made and continues to make to reduce the large deficit inherited from previous Administrations. From this portion of the message it appears that the revenues in 1899 were in excess of those of the previous year in the amount of \$616,603.87.

#### THE PACKING INDUSTRY.

In a report published in the "Moniteur Officiel," of Paris, the Attaché of the French Legation in Montevideo gives detailed information on the packing industry in Uruguay, from which the following extracts are taken:

The packing houses of Uruguay can be divided, according to their situation, into four distinct groups—Montevideo, interior, Uruguayan coast, and Brazilian frontier. There are twelve packing houses in Montevideo scattered along the coast for a distance of 20 kilometers. They are of about equal importance, and slaughter the same kinds of animals—oxen, cows, and sometimes mares. In 1898-99 the number of animals slaughtered at these establishments amounted to 365,478. In the interior there are two establishments of minor importance, the number of animals slaughtered amounting in 1898-99 to 37,000 head. On the coast there are eight houses established on the eastern side of the Uruguayan River. These are the most important in the country, the two principal ones being the Fray-Bentos, where the Liebig extract is made, and the Casa Blanca, which is lighted by electricity. Two houses are established on the right bank of the Cuareim River, which forms the northern boundary line with Brazil.

None of the Uruguayan packing houses prepare meat for refrigerators. There are few of these establishments except in the Argentine Republic. The packing season has an average duration of eight months, generally beginning in spring (in November) and ending in July, the beginning of winter. The principal products are dried beef, salted hides, and tallow. The secondary products are horns, hair, bones, tendons, tails, blood, bone ash, etc.

Brazil is the principal market for dried beef or *tasajo*, Cuba being a secondary market. The meat is shipped to Brazil in bales of 90 to 100 kilos. The prices vary greatly there according to the market supply. During the season which has just passed the prices ranged between 800 and 1,000 *reis*. The three great import markets for *tasajo* are Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, and Pernambuco.

There has been an increased tax levy of 1 per cent on the exportation of the products of the packing houses, the proceeds of which are to be used for the construction of the port. This duty was imposed by a decree of November 8, 1899.

Salted hides are generally sold at Montevideo to representatives of European houses. Antwerp is the principal importing market, Hâvre and Hamburg following. The shipments are usually made by Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish sailing vessels. The other products of the packing houses find good markets in Europe, Brazil, and on the Pacific coast.

In adding to the number of animals slaughtered in the Argentine Republic and in the Province of Rio Grande (Brazil) to those of Uruguay, the only countries producing *tasajo*, the following figures are obtained: 1,353,100 head in 1897-98 and 1,412,000 head in 1898-99.

Eighty per cent of the cattle in Uruguay, as reported by the United States Minister to that country, is used for the purpose of making *tasajo* or dried beef for export to Brazil, Cuba, and Porto Rico. Liebig's Extract Company consumes probably 150,000 head of cattle a year. No live cattle are exported as yet to Europe, though it is hoped by the Government that such an enterprise will be soon started. At present there is no port where cattle might be embarked, but a concession has been granted for such a port at Buceo, within the municipality of Montevideo. Until these shipments assume noteworthy proportions the preparation of *tasajo* will continue to absorb the greater part of the cattle of the country.

#### IMPORTS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

A recent German consular report says that fowling pieces in Uruguay are mostly of Belgian origin, small quantities coming from Great Britain, which are of a better quality. The gunpowder used is of British origin, and the dynamite comes principally from the United States. The shot are made in the country itself. Ball cartridges are imported from the United States, Great Britain, and Belgium, in the order named. Mauser rifles are used by the Government, which obtains its supplies from Europe.

#### FRENCH REPORT ON THE NAIL TRADE.

The first and only statistics given of the imports of nails into Uruguay were published in 1897. Previous to that time nails were classified under the general head of "various articles."

The total imports of all kinds of nails for that year amounted to 382,065 kilos, the greater part of which were furnished by the following countries:

	Belgium.	Germany.	England.	France.	United States.
	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>	<i>Kilos.</i>
Points .....	138,575	72,731	53,698	32,296	.....
Hobnails .....	3,190	19,398	670	.....	.....
Brads .....	14,923	6,366	1,765	210	927
Copper nails .....	.....	30	87	.....	.....
Other kinds .....	4,883	915	15,827	.....	6,750

According to the figures of the Uruguayan Customs statistics, Belgium occupies the first rank among the competing countries furnishing Paris points and brads. However, it is stated that all articles shipped from Antwerp are invariably classified by the Uruguayan Custom-house as being of Belgium origin, consequently the above figures include not only the total shipments of Belgian nails to this country, but those from other countries shipped through Antwerp as well.

Steel nails with flat, fluted, and square heads are preferred in Uruguay. This country also imports round-headed nails and clamps, but in much smaller quantities. Paris points are especially employed for joinery, carpentry, and flooring work; they are put up in packages of 2 kilos each. Nails are packed in boxes of 50 packages or in barrels of 60 packages each. The manner of packing, as well as the assortment, varies according to the methods of importers. Brads numbered, respectively, 17 and 18, which are about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, are employed for flooring.

Paris points are bought free on board by the Uruguayan importers at the port of shipment and the manufacturer have nothing to do in regard to the entrance duties, etc., which are paid by the receivers.

As a general rule, the manner of payment varies with each importer. Some give a ninety days' draft on Paris upon the arrival of the goods, while others give drafts payable in one, two, three, or six months from the date of the arrival of the goods.

The principal importers of Paris points at Montevideo are: Messrs. TRABUCATI & Co.; LUIS BONOMI; MORELLI & Co.; Mr. JUAN SHAW; Messrs. BERETTA, FRATELLI Y GAGGINI; M. CAPURRO HERMANOS; Mr. A. RAPP & Co.

There is a nail manufactory at Montevideo, belonging to Messrs. F. VILARO & Co., but its production is as yet unimportant.

#### SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS.

According to the "South American Journal" a Latin American Scientific Congress is to be held at Montevideo in March, 1901. Representatives from all the Latin American countries will be invited to send accredited delegates. The discussions will be devoted to all branches of science, including matters of a social and political character.

#### NEW MINISTER OF FINANCE.

By a recent Presidential decree Dr. DUFORT Y ALVAREZ has been named as Minister of Finance. The new Minister is under 50 years of age, and has distinguished himself in the National Congress, in journalism, and at the bar. He is one of the founders of the "Razón," and is regarded as an authority on financial and economic questions.

**PROJECTED STEAMSHIP LINE.**

“El Comercio,” of Lima, Peru, is authority for the statement that a representative of the American Transatlantic Navigation Company was in Montevideo at the end of February for the purpose of negotiating for the establishment of a direct line of steamships between the River Plate and the United States.

**RATIFICATION OF POSTAL CONVENTION.**

The Uruguayan Government has ratified the Universal Postal Convention, the arrangement concerning the service of postal orders, the arrangement concerning the intervention of the postal office in subscriptions to newspapers and periodical publications, and the convention concerning the exchange of postal parcels, signed at Washington, June 15, 1897.

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**VENEZUELA.****PARCELS POST TREATY SIGNED.**

A dispatch from Caracas, dated April 6, 1890, says that on that day President CASTRO signed and delivered to the United States Minister, Hon. FRANCIS B. LOOMIS, the parcels post treaty between Venezuela and the United States, which has been under negotiation for a number of years.

**TARIFF CHANGES.**

According to the report of LOUIS GOLDSCHMIDT, United States Consul at La Guayra, the imposition of additional duties upon certain articles of merchandise imported into and exported from Venezuela, which were named in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for February, 1900 (p. 278), has been remitted, except on imported wheat flour and exports of hides, skins, coffee, and cacao.

**PAVING AND SEWERAGE IN CARACAS.**

Advices from a Caracas, Venezuela, correspondent of the Bureau of the American Republics state that the Council of that city desires to arrange for the paving of the streets and for a modern system of sewerage. The estimated cost of this work is about \$1,800,000. Ample security in the way of municipal taxes is promised.

“This contract can not be secured by means of correspondence, nor can any important details be furnished in that way. The way to secure work of this sort is to send intelligent agents and engineers here to study the situation, armed with power to make business-like propositions to the authorities.”

**SILK-SPINNING SPIDERS.**

Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHER, United States Consul, writing from Maracaibo, says that large silk-spinning spiders are to be found in some of the palm trees of Venezuela. Some of these insects produce white and others yellow silk, and the Consul has been told that their product has been woven into handkerchiefs. The entomologist of the Department of Agriculture of the United States says that silk produced in this way can not be made valuable commercially, because of the necessity of keeping the spiders separated to prevent their devouring each other. Their food being insects, this also involves considerable labor in supplying them. Attempts to utilize the silk of a Madagascar spider of the same species some years ago resulted in the discovery that the product was more expensive than ordinary silk.

**PROSPECTS FOR GOLD.**

On March 20, 1900, there was a meeting held at the Hotel Emory, Cincinnati, Ohio, of the Yuruari Developing and Gold Dredging Company of Venezuela. According to the report of the President, Mr. A. C. GORDON, the promoters discussed the best means for the development of the territory. It was reported that agents for the company had found a good grade of gold in paying quantities. Work is to begin on the property during the present year.

**MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.**

The American Laundry Machinery Company, of New York City, is reported to have recently completed the erection of a large laundering establishment in Caracas. It is said to be the first plant of the sort in that part of the world.

"El Tiempo," of Caracas, recently announced the departure from Maracaibo of a mixed commission charged to fix the frontier limit between the Republics of Colombia and Venezuela.

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**HONORARY CORRESPONDING MEMBER.**

Since the last issue of the MONTHLY BULLETIN a new corresponding member has been added to the list.

Señor Don JOSÉ I. SCHIAFFINO will represent the Bureau of the American Republics at Montevideo, the capital of the Republic of Uruguay. Señor SCHIAFFINO is at present the Director of the Office for the International Exchange of Publications at Montevideo.

## THE PRODUCTION OF RUBBER IN 1899.

MR. FRANK D. HILL, United States Consul at Amsterdam, has furnished the following article to the Department of Foreign Commerce—through which it was forwarded to this Bureau—with reference to the world's production of rubber in 1899:

A firm in London has issued an annual review of the rubber market, from which the following is culled:

The trade was exceedingly active during the year, the price of fine Pará closing 6d. higher than last January, other clear, hard rubber being dearer, and “negro head” cheap during the year. All European manufacturers have been employed, and American trade has increased to such an extent that imports from Pará direct show an increase of 4,100 tons over 1898.

Shipments to Europe since July show a falling off of 1,350 tons, and the stock of Pará is small, the visible supply of Pará and Peruvian being now 3,332 tons against 2,930 tons (including the United States, 1,417 tons against 680 tons). Brazil is, as ever, the main source of supply. Mollendo has doubled its export, but with this exception “planting” has produced small results. Peruvian is much larger again, and some of good quality has been received from Iquitos. Venezuelan Orinocan supplies were trifling. Ceará supplies small, but a good many “negro-head” scrappy lots of Manicoba rubber were received and sold at high prices. Pernambuco and Assare sent good lots at high prices. The supply of Mangabeira has been much larger, and nice, clean sheet sold well, especially Santos and Rio. When the writer was in São Paulo last May great hopes were entertained of rubber cultivation as a means of diversification of the industries of the State, which consist at present almost exclusively of coffee raising.

African rubber showed in 1899, as a whole, no increase in supply, and the quality has hardly kept up to former years, but prices show an increase of 3d. for the year. The Congo export has grown with marvelous rapidity, being 3,000 tons for 1899 against 1,800 tons in 1898. This rubber was fine, dry, and in good part clean and of useful quality and brought very high prices. Rangoon sent 20 per cent more of good quality and Penang a supply of 600 tons against 820 tons in 1898; the red and fine lots sold very well. Small imports from Assam sold well—about 2d. advance. Borneo sent as large lots as last year, 590 against 600 tons, prices closing 2d. higher for the year. Pontiniac was abundant and irregular—up to £21 and down to £14; now about £20 a ton. The supply from Ceylon was trifling and very high prices were paid, which should encourage planting there. Java sent small lots, which sold well. There was, as usual, considerable fluctuations in the values of Pará rubber during the year, and at the close prices of fine and extra fine show an advance of 6d. per pound since January, 1899. “Negro-



heads" have not participated in this advance, scrappy closing at about the same price; Island and Cometás about ruled 1d. lower.

For the first three months of the year the market in London was active, and a large business was done. The price of fine, after falling in January to 3s. 11d., advanced by the end of the month to 4s. 3d. and with some fluctuations continued to advance until the middle of March up to 4s. 5d., the value of scrappy "negro-heads" being 3s. 7½d.; Matto Grosso, virgin, 3s. 11½d.; "negro-heads," 3s. 3d.; Mollendo, 4s. 2½d. During April and May, prices declined, and in the beginning of June fine was sold down to 4s. and scrappy to 3s. 1½d. Present prices are: Fine, 4s. 7d.; "negro-head," scrappy, 3s. 7d.; Cometás, 2s. 10d.; Island, 2s. 9d. Balata has been largely sold throughout the year, and prices close 8d. per pound dearer on sheet, viz.: 2s. 5d.; block, 7½d. higher, viz.: 1s. 10d. for good Venezuelan. Gutta-percha has been in great demand, and prices of all kinds show a remarkable advance during the year.

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## RARE PHILIPPINE MINERALS AND CORALS.

The Jesuit fathers of Manila have sent to Washington two collections of minerals and corals found in the Philippine Islands. One of these collections has been on exhibition at Georgetown College for some time; the other, which has been presented to the Government, is now being catalogued according to the scientific classification, and will be given a permanent place in the National Museum.

One of the finest specimens in the college collection is an exceedingly beautiful and rare coral from the island of Mindanao. This coral, known as "Imperialis," is found in no other waters of the world. It is as white as snow, and resembles tiny feathers, its texture being so soft and pliable that it is difficult to believe that it is stone. Another exquisite specimen from the same island, where, the "Jewelers' Circular" says, there is found not only precious stones and minerals, but some of the finest pearls in the world, is light gray in color, with here and there dainty touches or waves of olive. Still another specimen is a large cluster of apparently pure white feathers crested with minute star-shaped flowers of salmon pink, which glisten like gems. An unique variety is that which resembles branches of very small corncobs; so striking is this resemblance that the color of the cobs is not only true to nature, but seemingly particles of husk are also attached. The dark brown and white and the mouse-colored gray specimens are the largest in this collection.

One of the exhibits bears a striking resemblance to a hornet's nest, and to this is attached a petrified sponge, while clinging to its sides are many little flower-shaped particles. Also especially interesting is a petrified miniature tree, gnarled and knotted and only about three

feet in height, though appearing of great age. The daintiest and perhaps the rarest coral in the collection is composed of a white base tipped with pale pink and blue points. One of the most delicate is the *Aspergellum* or "Venus Flower Basket," whose interwoven fibers resemble fine lace. This coral is found only on the coast of the island of Cebu, and is so fragile that its shipment required extreme care.

The minerals in this collection include almost every known variety. Among the precious stones the opals are especially beautiful, reflecting all the rainbow tints peculiar to the finest specimens of these stones.

One of the interesting features of the collection is a large number of beautiful and valuable shells, of which much of the expensive and magnificent pearl mosaic work produced in Vienna and Venice is made. The largest shell is about 2 feet long, and is perfect in detail from tip to tip, and is in the shape of a hunting horn, all of it having a highly polished surface. This is believed to be one of the rarest shells in existence.

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## BANANA PRODUCTS.

The banana is said to have thirty-four times the nutritive value of the potato and twenty-five times that of bread. In the West Indies the natives cut the fruit into strips called "pegs," dry these in the sun, and grind them into flour, out of which many excellent dishes are made. No cheaper food grows in the Tropics. The plant begins bearing fourteen months after being planted. It requires no cultivation and produces harvests uninterruptedly for eleven years. A few feet of ground nourishes a plant, and the space of a dooryard will grow plants enough to maintain a large family.

Ever since the trouble between Spain and the United States red bananas have ceased to be a factor in this country. For two or three years we have received only the yellow fruit from Jamaica and Central America. Several years ago the tables were turned and the red fruit predominated, and the yellow fruit was as much of a curiosity as the red fruit is now. In another year it is expected that large quantities of the red fruit will come here from Cuba. The plantations there were destroyed during the war, but are now well under cultivation again.

Desiccated bananas are to be a new delicacy in the markets of the United States, according to the "Baltimore Sun." Mr. ARTHUR F. SPAWN, of that city, is said to be the originator of the idea, and after a trip to Jamaica, has sent representatives there to erect a plant for carrying out the plan. As yet the evaporation idea is in its infancy, but there seems to be no doubt that it will be perfected, and bananas that now can not be shipped from Jamaica in the natural state will reach the markets of the United States in another form.

Whatever may be the state of the weather, the prepared bananas can reach the market in an attractive condition without being affected by the summer heat or winter chill, as in the case with fruit when forwarded on its original bunch from the plant.

In a small way the evaporated fruit has been tried in Europe, to which country it is impossible to send it in quantities in the natural state. Confectioners like evaporated bananas as a base for candied fruits, and bakers can use them in a variety of ways.

Bananas have been evaporated to some extent in Nicaragua, and, according to authentic information, if the plan proves successful the industry will be introduced into the banana-producing districts throughout Central America, the West Indies, and probably all other tropical and semitropical regions where the banana is grown.

The general method of evaporation is that pursued with juicy fruits. The thoroughly ripe banana is placed in an oven and subjected to heat for twenty-four to forty-eight hours, as may be required. The sugar crystalizes on the outside. The evaporated product is then packed in boxes for the wholesale trade. It takes 6 pounds of fresh fruit to make 1 pound of the evaporated product, hence the economy in space in transporting is important, to say nothing of the saving in preventing decay in transit.

It appears, from an article published in the "Revue Générale des Sciences," that banana flour is being introduced in the American market, where it is gradually taking the place of wheat flour in the making of alimentary pastes. However, it is only used in a few districts as yet on account of its high price.

Mr. BOUNIN, an agriculturist at Port Louis (Mauritius), writes that he can furnish flour from his bananas for forty-hundredths of a *franc* (7.7 cents) per pound, and he is anxious that importers should give their attention to this new product.

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## FAILURE OF THE OLIVE CROP.

From all information received up to the present time, says the "Bulletin Commercial," of Paris, it appears that the olive crop has been poor in all the countries of southern Europe, and that the yield will not reach 30 per cent of the average annual production.

In Italy, and also to a certain extent in France and Spain, the failure of the crop is due in large part to the destruction caused by a sort of fly known under the name of *Mosca olearia*. This fly deposits its eggs on the green fruit and the larvæ which are soon hatched out completely destroy the olive or else injure it to such an extent that the oil which is extracted is of such poor quality that it can not be used as table oil.

During the last few years the price of olive oil has considerably decreased, and last year it fell as low as 1 *franc* per kilogram; Tunisian oil was only worth 75 *centimes* per kilogram. Since the news of the poor crops the prices have risen to about 2 *francs* per kilogram for good European oils, and to 1.45 *francs* for Tunisian oil. It is thought that these prices will still increase as soon as the season becomes more favorable to the consumption of table oils, unless there should be a further development of the olive industry in the State of California, United States of America, which is viewed with some apprehension by the olive producers in European countries. It is also reported that attempts are being made to cultivate olives in the Argentine Republic, and this country, with its large Italian population, may become a competitor in the not distant future.

### THE WORLD'S OAT CROP.

According to BROOMHALL, the statistician, the world's oat crop during the last three years is accredited to the following countries:

Countries.	1899.	1898.	1897.
	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>	<i>Bushels.</i>
United States.....	785,000,000	731,000,000	699,000,000
Russia.....	740,000,000	580,000,000	560,000,000
Germany.....	296,000,000	336,000,000	280,000,000
France.....	265,000,000	270,000,000	221,000,000
Austria-Hungary.....	182,000,000	180,000,000	150,000,000
Great Britain.....	160,000,000	172,000,000	164,000,000
Canada.....	117,000,000	110,000,000	97,000,000
Sweden.....	65,000,000	68,000,000	56,000,000
Denmark.....	35,000,000	39,000,000	33,900,000
Belgium.....	19,000,000	23,000,000	28,000,000
Italy.....	16,000,000	18,000,000	19,000,000
Netherlands.....	16,000,000	17,000,000	15,000,000
Roumania.....	6,000,000	17,000,000	10,000,000
Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelai.....	5,000,000	7,000,000	4,000,000
Algeria.....	3,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000
Total.....	2,710,000,000	2,576,000,000	2,340,900,000

### TRADE WITH SPANISH AMERICA.

The Consular Agent of Nicaragua at Mobile, Alabama, says that during the month of March, 1900, the exports from Mobile to Nicaragua consisted of 51 packages of dry goods and notions valued at \$3,246.72; 75 packages of hardware valued at \$219.70, and 25 posts valued at \$50.

The Consular Agent of Nicaragua at San Francisco advises that during the month of February, 1900, the exports to Nicaragua through the port of San Francisco were valued at \$29,778.89, and consisted of 6,333 packages of various articles of merchandise. The exports for March were 8,856 packages valued at \$34,076.60.

The Consul-General of Brazil in New York states that 223 vessels cleared for Brazilian ports during the year 1899, carrying 242,467 tons

of freight, with crews consisting of 4,863 men. The number of vessels arriving were 303, carrying 368,855 tons of freight, and manned by 7,272 men. The total exports were valued at \$11,360,931.82, the value of the imports being \$60,108,464. These figures, compared with those for the year 1898, show a decrease of \$2,354,408.10 in the exports and an increase of \$7,995,739 in the imports.

The Consular Agent of Chile at Baltimore, Maryland, writes that the exports, through that port, to Chile for the first three months of the present year consisted of machinery, coal, and coke valued at \$27,210.05.

The Mexican Vice-Consul at Pascagoula, Mississippi, reports the exports to Mexico during the month of March as follows: To Tuxpan, lumber valued at \$688; to Progreso, lumber valued at \$1,025; to Coatzacoalcos, lumber valued at \$1,509; to Campeche, lumber valued at \$2,417; to Veracruz, lumber valued at \$6,218; making a total of \$11,857.

The Consul-General of Nicaragua in Boston writes that during the month of March, 1900, steel-wire rope was exported through that port to Nicaragua to the value of \$1,531.46. The imports consisted of some mahogany logs.

The Consul of the Republic of Haiti at Boston reports that during the months of January, February, and March of the present year, the exports to Haiti consisted of merchandise to the value of \$6,013.43. The imports from Haiti during the same period consisted of logwood, valued at \$47,350.

The Acting Consul of Bolivia at New York writes that during the month of March, 1900, there were exported to Bolivia, 1,719 packages of merchandise, valued at \$32,287.95.

The Mexican Consul at San Diego, California, announces the exports to Mexico, through his consulate, during the month of February, 1900, to have been 1,335 packages, valued at \$3,486. The imports through this port destined for the United States for the same month were valued at \$3,891.

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## BOOK NOTICES.

Books and pamphlets sent to the Bureau of the American Republics, and containing subject-matter bearing upon the countries of the International Union of American Republics, will be treated under this caption in the Monthly Bulletin.

In "Die Bevölkerung der Erde" (Population of the Earth), issued by the Perthes Geographical establishment at Gotha, Germany, Dr. SUPAN, estimates the total population of Europe at 381,000,000. In a similar volume issued by the same authorities in 1870, the number

of people living in Europe at that time was estimated at 302,000,000, which indicates an increase of 70,000,000 in thirty years, or an annual average of 2,630,000. This was in addition to the constant outpouring of emigrants to the United States and other countries in America and elsewhere. Dr. SUPAN estimates the mean density of population at 39 inhabitants for every square kilometer (about 250 acres) in Europe. The mean density in the United States in 1890 was 7 to the square kilometer. Belgium remains the most densely populated country, with 224 to the square kilometer, the Netherlands coming next with 152. Great Britain has 128 to the square kilometer; Italy, 111; Germany, 97; Switzerland, 76; France, 71, and Austro-Hungary, 70.

In this connection attention has been called to the rapid increase of urban population. In all the leading countries of Europe, except Russia and Switzerland, from one-fifth to more than one-third of the total population now live in cities of 50,000 or more. The factory system, the railroads, and similar inventions have produced the same result all over the world—the establishment of manufacturing centers. In the United States in 1790 only 3.14 per cent of the people lived in towns of 10,000 or more inhabitants, while in Australia in 1891, with about the same population as the United States had one hundred years previous (3,800,000), 33.20 per cent lived in towns having populations of 10,000 or more. The rearrangement of the European populations on this new basis permits of a population which half a century ago would have resulted in disastrous overcrowding.

The catalogue of Peruvian earthquakes begun in the "Boletín" of the Lima Geographical Society, Tomo VIII, Trimestre Tercera, is concluded in Tomo IX, Trimestre Primera. The catalogue begins with the year 1315 and is brought down to 1878. During this time more than 2,500 earthquakes were noted, 215 of which occurred in the sixteenth century, 27 in the seventeenth, 852 in the eighteenth, and 1,452 in the nineteenth. It was found that there was no attempt at a careful registration of these phenomena before the year 1700, and such records as exist must be sought for, according to Señor POLO, who compiles the catalogue, in rare or even unpublished works on various subjects, in the chronicles of religious bodies, in the lives of holy men, and in theological or literary treatises. With regard to the frequency of the shocks, Señor POLO quotes the statement of Father COBO, in the middle of the sixteenth century, that no year passed without an earthquake shock in Peru or Chile, and the calculation made by Dr. FUENTES, that in the period between 1815 and 1858 there were 8 more or less violent earthquakes every year in Lima. This city and Arequipa seem to be the principal centers of activity, the former with a record of 923 and the latter with one of 1,377 convulsions.

In its issue for April 7, 1900, the "Engineering and Mining Journal" (New York) publishes an article on the "Copper Production of

the World." In the statistical tables printed in this connection on the total copper product of the world for 1899 is given as 473,818 tons as compared with 434,329 tons in 1898. In this calculation the increased production for the year is estimated at about 26,000 tons. The most important gain, outside of the United States, was 3,667 tons for the Republic of Mexico. The figures given for the production of the Latin American Republics are as follows: Argentine Republic, 65 tons in 1899, as against 125 tons in 1898; Brazil, 2,500 tons, an increase from 2,050; Chile, 25,000 tons, an increase from 24,850; Mexico, 19,335 tons, an increase from 15,668; Peru, 5,165 tons, an increase from 3,040. The total of the world's supply for 1899, as compared with that of 1898, indicates an increase of about 10 per cent.

"Notes sur l'Américanisme Quelques-unes de ses lacunes" (Notes on Americanism) is the title to a new work by M. DÉSIRÉ PECTOR, who for nineteen years has represented the interests of a number of the Central American Republics at Paris, either as a Consul-General or as a Consul. Mr. PECTOR's new work, which contains a preface by Mr. E. T. HAMY, a member of the Institute of France, is of especial interest to the archæologist and the student of prehistoric conditions in America. The work treats of the different races, the geology, climate, topography, anthropology, ethnology, history of the discoveries and of the regions which are still unexplored or little known; also of the linguistic relations between the different races of America, and kindred subjects. Mr. PECTOR's style is particularly pleasing, his descriptions and deductions being clearly and concisely expressed. The book is published by J. MAISONNEUVE, Paris.

Senhor SALVADOR DE MENDONÇA, formerly Brazilian Minister at Washington, is publishing in the "Jornal do Commercio" a series of articles on coffee. After reviewing the trade of this article in the United States during the past twenty years, he shows the situation of Brazilian coffee at the present time. He attributes the low price of coffee to excessive speculation, and suggests as a remedy the formation of a great Brazilian corporation controlling the principal centers of production in Brazil, and having two great centers for the distribution of coffee, one situated at New York and the other at Lisbon, and thus regulating all shipments of the product. He advocates the establishment of a Brazilian standard of coffee after that adopted in the leading markets of the world.

The two large volumes of annual reports from diplomatic and consular officers, known as "Commercial Relations of the United States," which were transmitted by President McKINLEY to Congress on March 1, 1900, will be issued this year much earlier than usual. These reports describe the present condition of commerce and industries in all the countries of the world, especially as affecting the trade of the

United States. In the words of the President, the reports show a "marked increase in the practical utility" to the exporters and manufacturers of the country "of the services of official representatives."

A new Parisian journal bears the title "Paris-Buenos Aires," the first number of which appeared at the French capital on January 1, 1900. It is published in French and Spanish, its object being to make known in Europe the social conditions, industry, commerce, and, in a word, the general degree of culture in America, and especially in the Argentine Republic. The first number, among other illustrations, contains several views of Buenos Ayres and cuts of General ROCA and the Argentine Minister in Paris, while there are a number of other views. The new journal appears on the 1st and 15th of each month.

A paper presented to the Institute of Mining Engineers, at its session in San Francisco in September, 1899, has been printed in pamphlet form. The subject-matter of this publication—"The Manganese Deposits of Bahia and Minas, Brazil"—has been noted at various times in the MONTHLY BULLETIN. The author is Prof. JOHN C. BRANNER, of Leland Stanford University.

"The Brichte über Handel und Industrie" (Reports of Trade and Industry), published in Berlin by the German Imperial Department of the Interior, in its issue of March 21, 1900, has a very exhaustive article upon the production of cotton throughout the world. Each country is treated separately, and all the latest available statistics are given.

"The Stone Reef at the Mouth of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil," by Messrs. J. C. BRANNER and C. E. GILMAN, is the title of a pamphlet that has recently appeared. The subject-matter, which the title explains, is a reprint of the original publication in "The American Geologist" for December, 1899.

"The Nicaragua Canal" is the title of an illustrated book written by Mr. W. E. SIMMONS and issued by HARPER & BROS., New York. Besides his and other people's views on this great enterprise, Mr. SIMMONS gives much information about Nicaragua, particularly about the people and the natural wealth of the country.

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### BY GIFT AND EXCHANGE.

- Alabama Industrial and Scientific Society. Proceedings, 1899. Atlanta, South Ind. Publ. Co., 1900. 58 pp. 8°.
- Barrett, Robert S. Standard Guide to City of Mexico, Mexico, "Modern Mexico" Publ. Co., 1900. 98 pp. 8°.



- Church, George Earl. *Argentine Geography and Ancient Pampean Sea*. London, Royal Geog. Soc., 1898. 16 pp. 8°.
- . *Explorations in Valley of River Madeira*. London, National Bolivian Nav. Co., 1875. 90 pp.
- . *National Bolivian Navigation Co., and Madeira and Mamoré Ry. Co. Concessions and papers*. London, 1869-1873. 8°.
- . *Report on the Costa Rica Railway*. London, Waterlow and Sons, 1895. 91 pp. 8°.
- . *Route to Bolivia via River Amazon*. London, Waterlow and Sons, 1877. 216 pp. 8°.
- Demorest, A. F. (editor). *Cambridge Encyclopedia*. April, 1900. N. Y., Cambridge Enc. Co., 1900.
- Fragueiro, Rafael. *Cuentos de sol y Nieve*. Buenos Aires, Imp. de "La Nacion," 1900. 208 pp.
- Maranjo, Manuel G. *Fin de Siglo Almanaque de Guayaquil*. Guayaquil, Tip. Gutenberg (1900). 214 pp. 4°.
- Merrill, George P. *Notes on the Geology and Natural History of Lower California*. Washington, Govt. Ptg. Office, 1897. 994 pp. 8°.
- San Francisco Chamber of Commerce: *Annual Report*. San Francisco Commercial Publ. House, 1900. 467 pp. 8°.
- Unión Industrial Argentina: *Los Yacimientos Petroliferos Argentinos*. Buenos Ayres, Imp. "La Buenos Aires," 1900. 27 pp. 8°.

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

## ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

- Anuario Estadístico de Buenos Aires*. 1896. La Plata, Imp. del Museo, 1898. 517 pp. 4°.
- . 1897. La Plata. . . . 1899. 472 pp. 4°.

## CHILE.

- Bosquejo de la hacienda pública de Chile*. Santiago de Chile, Imp. Nac., 1898. 354 pp. 4°.
- Estadística Comercial de Chile*. 1898. Valparaiso, G. Heliman, 1899. 87, 111, 16 pp. 4°.
- Memoria del Ministro de Colonización i Culto*. Santiago de Chile, Imp. Nac., 1899. 306 pp. 8°.
- Memoria del Ministro de relaciones exteriores*. Santiago de Chile, Imp. Nac., 1899. 343 pp. 8°.
- Memoria del Ministro de Hacienda*. Santiago de Chile, Imp. Nac., 1898. 354 pp. 4°.

## ENGLAND.

- Accounts relating to trade and navigation of the United Kingdom*. 1900. London, Wyman & Sons (1900). 163 pp. 8°.
- Appeal of National Bolivian Navigation Co., &c.* London, House of Lords, 1869. 569 pp. 4°.
- Trade and Commerce of Certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions*. London, Wyman & Sons, 1900. 59 pp. 8°.

## GERMANY.

- Reichsamt des Innern: Die Lage des Handels und der Industrie in den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika zu Anfang, Dezember, 1899*. Berlin, 1900.
- . *Deutsche Interessen in Guatemala*. Berlin, 1900.

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## GUATEMALA.

Memoria de hacienda y crédito público. 1900. Guatemala, Tip. Nac. (1900). 56, 19 pp. 8°.

## MEXICO.

Secretaria de Estado: Iniciativa de presupuestos. 1900-1901. Mexico, Imp. del Timbre. 1899. 78 pp. 4°.

## NICARAGUA.

Memoria de Gobernación, relaciones exteriores, etc. Managua, Tip. Nac., 1898. 300 pp. 4°.

## PERU.

Estadística general de Aduanas. Año 1898. Lima, Imp. de "El Pais" (1899). 608 pp. 4°.

Memoria del Ministerio de relaciones exteriores. Lima, Tip. "El Tiempo" (1899). 608 pp. 4°.

Memoria que presenta la bolsa comercial de Lima. Lima, Imprenta Gil, 1900. 29 pp. 8°.

## UNITED STATES.

## AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Notes upon Dairying in California. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 29 pp. 8°.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Education in Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. 4°.

## BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 2,249 pp. sq. 8°.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Consular Reports. March, 1900. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 414 pp. 8°.

## FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM.

Annual Report of the Director. Chicago, Field Columbian Museum, 1899. 425 pp. 8°.

## NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Squadron of Admiral Cervera. Victor M. Concas y Palau. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 117 pp. 8°.

## TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Exports of Domestic Breadstuffs, etc., etc. February, 1900. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 13 pp. sq. 8°.

## UNITED STATES SENATE, FIFTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

Communications between the United States and Aguinaldo. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 174 pp. 8°.

## WAR DEPARTMENT.

- Commerce of the Island of Cuba. July and August, 1899. Washington, Government Printing Office (1900). 214 pp. 4°.
- Civil Report of Major-General Brooke, United States Civil Governor of Cuba, Havana, 1899. 2 v. 8°.
- Final report of Major-General Brooke on civil matters concerning Cuba. Havana, 1899. 142 pp. 8°.
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## URUGUAY.

- Mensaje del Presidente de la República. Montevideo, "La Nación," 1900. 81 pp. 4°.

## VENEZUELA.

- Código de hacienda. Cuarta edición oficial. Caracas, Imp. de "El Monitor," 1884. 360 pp. sq. 8°.
- Memoria del Ministro de Agricultura, industria y comercio. Caracas, Imp. Universal, 1899. 407 pp. 2 v. sq. 8°.

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- Barberina, Santiago I. Descripción geográfica y estadística de la República del Salvador. San Salvador, Imp. Nac., 1892. 114 pp. sq. 8°.
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- Fitz-Gerald, E. A. The Highest Andes. Methuen & Company, London, 1899. 390 pp. 8°.
- Goodwin, William. Wheat growing in the Argentine Republic. Liverpool, North Publishing Co., 1895. 75 pp. 8°.
- Jerrmann, Ludwig. Reise durch das Flussgebiet des Río Ipané. Hamburg, Friederichsen & Co., 1899. 21 pp. 8°.
- Little, Chas. E. Cyclopedia of Classified Dates. New York, Funk & Wagnalls, 1900. 1454 pp. 4°.
- McCann, William. Two Thousand Miles Through the Argentine Republic. London, Smith, Elder & Co., 1853. 295 pp. 8°.
- Mackenna, B. Vicuña. La Patagonia. Santiago de Chile, Imp. Centro Editorial, 1880. 354 pp. 4°.
- Medina, J. T. Ensayo Acerca de una Mapoteca Chilena. Santiago de Chile, Imp. Ercilla, 1889. 254 pp. 8°.
- . Historia geográfica, natural y civil de Chile. Santiago de Chile, Imp. Ercilla, 1889. 2 v. 357 pp. 4°.
- Pauléus-Sannon, H. Haïti et le régime parlementaire. Paris, Thorin et Fils, 1898. 180 pp. 8°.
- Pector, Desiré. Étude économique \* \* \* de Nicaragua. Neuchâtel, Soc. Neuchâteloise, 1893. 165 pp. 8°.
- . Notes sur l'Americanisme. Paris, J. Maisonneuve, 1900. 242 pp. 4°.
- Ross, Augustin. Defensa de la conversion metálica. Valparaiso, G. Helfmann, 1894. 204, III, pp. 8°.
- Salvador, Izquierdo S. La Arboricultura frutal. Santiago de Chile, Imp. Cervantes, 1898. 53 pp. 8°.
- Solar, Janvier Vial. El Problema del Norte. Santiago de Chile, Imp. Barcelona, 1898. 194, 11, pp. 8°.

- Subercaseaux, Guillermo. *El papel moneda en Chile*. Santiago de Chile, Imp. Barcelona, 1898. 183, 1, pp. 4°.
- Vibert, Paul. *La République d'Haïti*. Paris, Berger-Lebrault et Cie, 1895. 360, II, pp. 8°.
- Waterton, Charles. *Wanderings in South America*. London, Macmillan & Co., 1893. 520 pp. 8°.
- Whymper, Edward. *Travels amongst the great Andes of the Equator*. London, John Murray, 1892. 456 pp. 8°.

## PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS PERMANENTLY FILED IN THE LIBRARY.

Persons interested in the commercial and general news of foreign countries will find the following among the official and periodical publications on the permanent files in the Library of the Bureau of the American Republics:

- American Review of Reviews. New York. Monthly.
- Anales del Departamento de Ganadería y Agricultura. Montevideo. Monthly.
- Anglo (The) American Magazine. New York and London. Monthly.
- Argentinisches Wochenblatt. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.
- Board of Trade Journal. London, England. Weekly.
- Boletín de Agricultura, Minería é Industrias. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- Boletín de Estadística. Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Semimonthly.
- Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Lima. Lima, Peru.
- Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Monthly.
- Boletín Demográfico Argentino. Buenos Ayres. Monthly.
- Boletín del Instituto Científico y Literario. Toluca, Mexico.
- Boletín de la Red Meteorológica y Revista Científica. Toluca, Mexico.
- Boletín Postal de la Administración General de Correos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- Boletín Telegráfico. City of Mexico, Mexico.
- British Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.
- Bulletin of American Geographical Society. New York City.
- Bulletin of the Commercial Museum. Brussels, Belgium. Weekly.
- Bulletin of the Free Museum of Science and Arts. Philadelphia. Quarterly.
- Century Magazine. New York City. Monthly.
- Chicago Record. Chicago, Illinois. Daily.
- Chilean Times. Santiago de Chile. Semiweekly.
- Coal Trade Journal. New York City. Weekly.
- Commercial Intelligence. London, England. Weekly.
- Deutsche Kolonialzeitung. Berlin. Weekly.
- Diario Oficial. Bogotá, Colombia. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. Managua, Nicaragua. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. City of Mexico. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. (Laws.) City of Mexico. Daily.
- Diario Oficial de la Republica de Chile. Santiago. Daily.
- Diario del Salvador. San Salvador, Salvador. Daily.
- Diplomatic and Consular Reports. London, England.
- El Agricultor Mexicano. City of Mexico. Monthly.

- El Comercio. La Paz, Bolivia.  
 El Comercio. Lima, Peru.  
 El Comercio. Managua, Nicaragua. Daily.  
 El Correo Nacional. Bogotá, Colombia.  
 El Economista. Lima, Peru. Weekly.  
 El Economista Mexicano. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.  
 El Estado de Colima. Colima, Mexico. Weekly.  
 El Guatemalteco. Guatemala, Guatemala. Weekly.  
 El Mensajero. Santo Domingo. Three times a month.  
 El Progreso de México. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.  
 El Republicano. Aguascalientes, Mexico. Weekly.  
 El Siglo. Montevideo, Uruguay. Daily.  
 Export Implement Age. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Monthly.  
 Feilden's Magazine. London, England. Monthly.  
 Field Columbian Museum Publications. Chicago, Illinois.  
 Freir's Colonial and Foreign Register. London. Quarterly.  
 Gaceta Municipal. Guayaquil, Ecuador. Weekly.  
 Gaceta Oficial. Caracas, Venezuela. Daily.  
 Gaceta Oficial. Santo Domingo. Weekly.  
 Geographical Journal. London, England. Monthly.  
 Handel's Kammer zur Hanover. Hanover, Germany.  
 India Rubber World. New York, New York. Monthly.  
 Japan-American Commercial Journal. Tokio, Japan. Monthly.  
 Jornal do Commercio. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Daily.  
 Journal of the Board of Agriculture. London, England. Quarterly.  
 La Escuela Cubana. Havana, Cuba. Weekly.  
 La Enseñanza. Asunción, Paraguay. Semimonthly.  
 La Gaceta. (Official.) Costa Rica. Daily.  
 La Gaceta. Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Weekly.  
 La Gaceta Commercial. City of Mexico, Mexico. Daily.  
 La Nacion. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Daily.  
 La Patria. León, Nicaragua.  
 La Plata Post. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.  
 La Plata Zeitung. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.  
 La Producción Argentina. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.  
 La Producción Nacional. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Semimonthly.  
 Lavoura (A). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.  
 Le Commerce Extérieur Argentin. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic.  
 Le Nouveau Monde. Paris, France. Weekly.  
 Modern Machinery. Chicago, Illinois. Monthly.  
 Modern Mexico. St. Louis, Missouri, and City of Mexico, Mexico. Monthly.  
 Moniteur Officiel. Paris, France. Weekly.  
 Novedades (Las). New York City. Weekly.  
 Pan-American Magazine. Buffalo, New York. Monthly.  
 Petermann's Mitteilungen. Gotha, Germany. Monthly.  
 Rapports Commerciaux. Paris, France.  
 Registro Oficial de la República del Ecuador. Quito, Ecuador. Daily.  
 Resumen de la Importación y de la Exportación. City of Mexico, Mexico. Monthly.  
 Review of the River Plate. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.  
 Revista Brasileira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.  
 Revista de Ciencias. Lima, Peru.  
 Revista de la Instrucción Pública de Colombia. Bogotá, Colombia. Monthly.  
 Revista Económica y Financiera. La Paz, Bolivia. Monthly.  
 Revista del Faro. Habana, Cuba. Quarterly.

Revista del Instituto Paraguayo. Asunción, Paraguay. Monthly.  
 Revista Marítima Brasileira. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.  
 Revue du Commerce Extérieur. Paris. Semimonthly.  
 Revue générale des Sciences. Paris, France. Semimonthly.  
 Revue Politique et Parlementaire. Paris. Monthly.  
 Semana Mercantil. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.  
 Südamerikanische Rundschau. Berlin, Germany. Monthly.  
 Tableaux Mensuels de Statistique Municipale de la Ville de Paris. Paris. Monthly.  
 Tenders and Contracts. London, England.  
 Thonindustrie Zeitung. Berlin, Germany.  
 Times (The). London, England. Daily.  
 Trade and Navigation Reports. (Official.) London. Monthly.  
 United States Consular Reports. Daily and monthly.  
 Venezuelan Herald. Caracas, Venezuela.

#### ADDITIONS TO PERMANENT FILES DURING MARCH, 1900.

Boletín Legislativo. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.  
 Diario de Centro-América. Guatemala, Guatemala. Daily.  
 Gaceta Judicial. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.  
 Journal les Colonies. Saint Pierre, Martinique. Daily.  
 La República. Guatemala, Guatemala.  
 Padrón General de Minas. Lima, Peru.  
 Revista Agrícola. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Monthly.  
 Revista Industrial e Mercantil. Pernambuco, Brazil. Monthly.  
 Scientific American. New York, New York. Weekly.  
 Scientific American. Export Edition. New York, New York. Monthly.  
 Publications of the New England Free Trade League. Boston, Massachusetts.

# BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

## OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

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VOL. VIII.

ABRIL, 1900.

No. 4.

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### DISTINGUIDO VIAJERO.

En la primera quincena de este mes estuvo en Wáshington por unos pocos días el Señor Doctor Don POLICARPO BONILLA, ex-Presidente de Honduras, que regresa ahora á su patria, después de un viaje de varios meses en los Estados Unidos y Europa. Es el Dr. BONILLA uno de los hombres públicos más notables de la América Central. Durante su período administrativo Honduras realizó grandes progresos, tanto intelectuales como materiales. El gobierno del Dr. BONILLA ha dejado en aquella república los más gratos recuerdos.

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### LA LEY DEL TALÓN DE ORO.

El objeto de esta ley es fijar el tipo de la moneda y mantener á la par con el mismo toda clase de monedas que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos emita ó acuñe. Declara dicha ley que la unidad de valor es el *dollar*, que debe contener veinticinco y ocho décimos granos de oro, nueve décimos fino. Prescribe la ley que los billetes de los Estados Unidos y los del Tesoro emitidos de conformidad con la ley de 14 de julio, 1890, sean cambiados por moneda de oro del tipo indicado, siempre que sean presentados en la Tesorería para ser redimidos, y con tal fin dispone que el Secretario de Hacienda mantenga en la Tesorería un fondo de reserva de \$150,000,000 en moneda de oro y en oro en pasta. Esta suma se usará solamente para redimir los billetes de los Estados Unidos y los del Tesoro, y cuando hayan sido redimidos, el Secretario de Hacienda deberá cambiarlos por moneda de oro á fin de restablecer y mantener el fondo de reserva.

En caso de que el fondo de reserva llegue á bajar de \$100,000,000, el Secretario de Hacienda deberá restablecerlo hasta la suma máxima de \$150,000,000, mediante la venta de bonos de los Estados Unidos. El oro que se obtenga de esta venta pasará primero á los fondos generales de la Tesorería y después será cambiado por una cantidad igual en billetes redimidos. El Secretario de Hacienda está autorizado para cambiar por oro dichos billetes, ó para comprar ó redimir con ellos bonos de los Estados Unidos, ó para usarlos con cualquier fin legítimo que los intereses públicos exijan; pero no podrá servirse de ellos para llenar ningún déficit en las rentas de la nación. Los billetes de los Estados Unidos, una vez redimidos según lo dispuesto en esta ley, serán emitidos de nuevo, pero se les guardará en el fondo de reserva hasta que no hayan sido cambiados por oro; y el oro acuñado y en pasta existente en dicho fondo de reserva, así como los billetes redimidos que se guarden para ser usados de la manera atrás indicada, no excederán en ningún tiempo de la suma máxima de \$150,000,000.

La ley autoriza al Secretario de Hacienda á recibir depósitos de oro acuñado en cantidades que no bajen de veinte *dollars*, y á emitir certificados de oro por valor de no menos de veinte *dollars*. El oro acuñado que haya sido depositado en la Tesorería se conservará allí para el pago de dichos certificados y no podrá ser usado con otro objeto; pero cuando quiera que el oro acuñado en el fondo de reserva de la Tesorería para la redención de billetes de los Estados Unidos y del Tesoro baje de cien millones de *dollars*, se suspenderá la facultad de emitir los referidos certificados, y el Secretario de Hacienda podrá, si lo tiene á bien, suspender la emisión de los mismos cuando los billetes de los Estados Unidos y los certificados de plata existentes en los fondos generales de la Tesorería pasen de la suma de sesenta millones de *dollars*.

La ley contiene otras disposiciones referentes al retiro y canceladura de los billetes del Tesoro, á los bancos nacionales, moneda subsidiaria, etc., y termina manifestando que ninguna de sus disposiciones debe considerarse como opuesta al establecimiento del bimetalismo internacional, cuando las circunstancias hagan esto práctico y conveniente, mediante una resolución conjunta de las principales naciones comerciales del mundo, y en tal proporción que garantice la permanencia en el valor relativo entre el oro y la plata.

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#### NUEVO PROCEDIMIENTO DE EXTRACCIÓN DEL CAUCHO DE LAS CORTEZAS DE DISTINTAS PLANTAS, PERO ESPECIALMENTE DE LA LANDOLFIA.

El periódico "La América Científica é Industrial," que es la edición española del "Scientific American," publica en el número correspondiente al mes del abril de este año, el interesante artículo que á continuación se verá:

"Las aplicaciones industriales del caucho se multiplican de día en



día, sin que pueda esperarse que la producción aumente, abandonada á los recursos naturales y espontáneos. Por esto los industriales han pensado utilizar el cultivo de ciertas plantas que producen caucho, y entre ellas se presenta en considerable desarrollo el cultivo en la colonia belga del Congo del *Landolfia*, planta que ocupa el primer lugar entre las especies que deben preconizarse, no solo por su rápido crecimiento, sino también porque el caucho que produce es de la mejor calidad.

“Esta especie crece espontáneamente en toda el África, y por el procedimiento bárbaro de la sangría, ó incisiones, produce una gran cantidad de caucho muy apreciado en el comercio. El procedimiento de la sangría, único universalmente empleado, no da buen resultado en la *Landolfia*, porque su jugo, lejos de manar fácilmente en abundancia, como el del *Hevea* del Brasil ó el de la *Castilloa* de la América Central, se coagula casi instantáneamente en el mismo punto de la incisión, quedando la mayor parte del caucho sin salir.

“Desde hace algunos años se ha buscado una solución que sea completamente satisfactoria para extraer de la corteza del *Landolfia* el jugo por disolventes apropiados, como el sulfuro de carbono, la bencina, etc., después de seca y pulverizada; pero no solo ha resultado que es preciso emplear los disolventes en cantidad enorme con relación al caucho extraído, sino que, además, la evaporación le hace perder en parte su tenacidad, desmereciendo su valor. Por esto, aunque el procedimiento es sencillo, no se aplica industrialmente.

“Se ha pensado también en desagregar la celulosa de la corteza por la acción de los álcalis ó de los ácidos para poner en libertad el caucho. El procedimiento preconizado recientemente por DEISS emplea el ácido sulfúrico concentrado; pero aun cuando éste se emplea para el tratamiento de la corteza del *Willugbeia* en la isla de Madagascar, es evidentemente demasiado costoso para aplicarlo de una manera general.

“Los Señores A. ARNAUD y A. VERNEIL han conseguido salvar la dificultad, tratando las cortezas por un procedimiento puramente mecánico, sin intervención alguna de la química.

“Las cortezas frescas ó secas del *Landolfia* (Lianes Toll del Senegal ó Lianes Gohine del Sudán) que el eminente horticultor M. GODEFROY LEBEUF entregó á los citados señores, les dieron un resultado excelente en el tratamiento directo.

“Las cortezas, después de secas, se pulverizan en un bocarte ó en un molino, ó por cualquier otro medio, y se pasan por un tamiz para separar 40 á 50 por ciento de polvo fino, el cual no contiene sino indicios insignificantes de caucho.

“El residuo, en parte aglomerado en placas, se moja con agua caliente, y se le somete á un molino que determina la formación de una pasta espesa y quebradiza, la cual se vuelve á tamizar dentro de un baño de agua caliente. Otro remolido del magma, que queda en el tamiz, deja ver en la masa filamentos vermiculares blanquecinos de caucho, los cuales, por medio de un machaqueo, prolongado lo bastante,

se van aglomerando y acaban por formar masas esponjosas que contienen la totalidad del caucho.

“Para separar el resto de la corteza que queda adherida, se echa todo en agua hirviendo, y como el caucho es más ligero, flota en la superficie y se recoge fácilmente. Por un golpeteo prolongado, se le transforma en una placa de caucho casi puro.

“La purificación completa se efectúa por el paso entre cilindros laminadores de velocidades diferentes, como se hace para purificar el caucho bruto.

“El rendimiento de *Landolfia* es muy bueno; la corteza aérea da de 8 á 9 por ciento de caucho; la de la cepa ó raíz, de 14 á 15 por ciento y aun más; el conjunto, con la mezcla de las ramillas, da de 6 á 8 por ciento. No se obtiene mayor rendimiento por los disolventes, en cuyo caso hay que gastar en resinas y otras materias que se disuelven.

“El procedimiento mecánico, como es de una aplicación sencillísima, puede ejecutarse en cualquier parte, y, además, por efecto del tratamiento mismo, el caucho resulta purificado en parte y bien preparado para la purificación completa, sin que la entorpezcan materias grasas y resinosas.

“En resumen, la pulverización en un medio húmedo, obrando por percusión y aplastamiento, combinado con el empleo del agua caliente, permite lixiviar la masa obtenida en estado semipastoso, consiguiéndose la extracción directa total del caucho contenido en la corteza, sin la necesidad de emplear ningún reactivo químico.

“La industria, auxiliada por las plantaciones coloniales, podrá sacar partido ventajoso de este nuevo modo de extracción.”

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## PROGRESO CIENTÍFICO EN EL AÑO DE 1899.

Bajo este lema dice el “Public Ledger,” de Filadelfia, en su número correspondiente al 16 de marzo próximo pasado, lo siguiente:

“El año pasado ha sido notable en lo relativo á obras de ingeniería, tanto por las que han sido proyectadas como, por las que se han terminado, y merecen mencionarse, especialmente, el gran canal de desagüe de Chicago, prácticamente concluido ya, y las nuevas esclusas del canal del San Lorenzo, las cuales, al hacer posible que vapores de alta mar, que miden 270 pies de largo, pasen de los grandes lagos al océano Atlántico, pondrán á las ciudades situadas sobre las costas de aquéllos en comunicación directa por agua con el litoral atlántico. El canal de desagüe de Chicago es uno de los más grandes que se han construido. Tiene 35 millas de largo, 22 pies de profundidad y un ancho máximo de 202 pies. La obra ha costado \$33,000,000.”

## EL MAÍZ EN LOS MERCADOS DEL MUNDO.

Las estadísticas han demostrado que la cantidad de trigo que se produce cada año no es, ni con mucho, suficiente para el consumo del mundo. Aunque este grano es más nutritivo que todos los otros cereales y posee cualidades que hacen de él un alimento casi universal, su precio en algunos países no permite que sea usado por las clases pobres, y necesariamente hay que buscar algo con que substituirle. Nada más aparente para esto que el maíz, que se produce en enormes cantidades en toda la América, al extremo de que con frecuencia el precio que por él se paga no basta para costear la transportación. Hace algunos años el maíz se usaba como combustible en algunas haciendas del oeste de los Estados Unidos, porque era más barato que el carbón ó la madera.

La introducción de pan de maíz como artículo de alimentación, ha presentado algunas dificultades, pero gradualmente la exportación de este grano va aumentando, y en 1898 ascendió á 208,744,939 *bushels*, valorados en \$74,196,850. Durante los doce meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, la exportación bajó á 174,089,094 *bushels*, valorados en \$68,977,448. En el año de 1890 solamente se exportaron, en números redondos, 86,000,000 *bushels*, lo cual prueba que en el transcurso de nueve años la exportación aumentó más del ciento por ciento.

En un tratado sobre el maíz publicado últimamente, el Profesor WILEY, químico del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, combate la opinión que se tiene en Europa de que el maíz es menos digerible y nutritivo que el trigo. En el sur de los Estados Unidos, el pan de maíz es el alimento principal, y cuando el grano está verde es muy apreciado en todo el país como alimento agradable y substancioso. La industria de conservar el maíz en latas se ha desarrollado mucho en los Estados Unidos, y el grano, así conservado, es visto como un excelente substituto del artículo en su estado natural. En todo el país existen establecimientos donde se prepara el maíz en latas, especialmente en los estados de Maine y de Nueva York. En el primero de ellos había en 1899 más de cien establecimientos de esta clase, cuya producción total fué de 11,671,000 latas.

Se obtiene del maíz un aceite muy valioso, así como casi todo el almidón que se fabrica en los Estados Unidos. La glucosa es otro de sus productos. Casi toda la planta se utiliza; las hojas sirven para forraje; la tusa sirve para varios objetos, principalmente para la manufactura de esteras y colchones.

Se trata ahora de dar á los europeos en la Exposición de París lecciones objetivas sobre la manera de convertir la harina de maíz en manjares muy agradables, y se cree que esto hará que aumente mucho la exportación de dicho grano de los Estados Unidos.

## LA PRODUCCIÓN DE AZÚCAR DE CAÑA Y DE REMOLACHA.

Según los cuadros estadísticos publicados últimamente por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos, 95 por ciento del azúcar producido en todo el mundo en 1840 era de caña, que es una planta tropical, y solamente 5 por ciento era de remolacha, que es producto de la zona templada. En 1899 solamente 34 por ciento del azúcar del mundo fué de caña, y 66 por ciento de remolacha.

El consumo de azúcar de remolacha en los Estados Unidos va en aumento, y la importación total de este artículo en el año económico de 1899, subió á 723,336,352 libras. La importación de toda clase de azúcares fué de 3,517,950,689 libras, por la cual se ve que la quinta parte del azúcar importado en los Estados Unidos es de remolacha.

La producción de azúcar de caña en el año 1899-1900 en los principales lugares del mundo donde este artículo se obtiene, fué, en toneladas, como sigue: Java 722,000; Cuba, 400,000; Islas de Hawai, 275,000; Brasil, 175,000; Islas de Mauricio, 150,000; Australia, 140,000; Estados Unidos (Luisiana), 132,000; otros países, 868,000; gran total, 2,862,000.

En el mismo año las toneladas de azúcar de remolacha producidas en el mundo fueron las siguientes:

Año.	Azúcar de caña.	Azúcar de remolacha.	Producción total.	Tanto por ciento correspondiente á la remolacha.
1840 .....	1,100,000	50,000	1,150,000	4.35
1850 .....	1,200,000	200,000	1,400,000	14.29
1860 .....	1,510,000	389,000	1,899,000	20.43
1870 .....	1,585,000	831,000	2,416,000	34.40
1880 .....	1,852,000	1,402,000	3,254,000	43.08
1890 .....	2,069,000	3,633,000	5,702,000	63.70
1900 .....	2,862,000	5,575,000	8,437,000	66.08

## ENFERMEDADES REINANTES EN LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS.

La Universidad Johns Hopkins, de Baltimore, envió una comisión á las islas Filipinas á hacer investigaciones respecto de las enfermedades reinantes en aquel archipiélago. La comisión ha regresado á los Estados Unidos y ha presentado su informe, del cual se extracta lo que sigue: Antes de pasar á Manila la comisión permaneció algún tiempo en el Japón, estudiando varias enfermedades propias del Asia, y también se ocupó en hacer observaciones respecto de la peste bubónica, que entonces reinaba en Hongkong. Después de su llegada á Manila, la

comisión hizo sus estudios en los hospitales. En la parte murada de la ciudad, llamada San Juan de Dios, hay un hospital que tiene de 250 á 300 camas. En los arrabales de la población se halla el hospital de leprosos, llamado San Lázaro, donde existen como cien enfermos. Además de estas instituciones, hay los hospitales del ejército, en los cuales se da asistencia médica á los soldados americanos y á otras personas de los Estados Unidos.

Las enfermedades reinantes entre los naturales son, principalmente, las del cuero cabelludo. En épocas pasadas la viruela causaba grandes estragos, porque las autoridades españolas no hacían esfuerzo ninguno para impedir el desarrollo de esa epidemia, la cual casi ha desaparecido desde la ocupación de la ciudad por los americanos. La lepra es una de las enfermedades reinantes, y la tuberculosis y las afecciones venéreas son frecuentes. Otra enfermedad de que son víctimas los naturales, especialmente los que están encerrados en las cárceles, es la llamada *beri-beri*. Las enfermedades que reinan principalmente entre los soldados americanos son la fiebre tifoidea y la disentería. La comisión dice que el clima de las islas Filipinas es enervante, pero no especialmente malsano.

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## CULTIVO DE LA VAINILLA.

La revista quincenal de Buenos Aires, "La Producción Nacional," publica en su número correspondiente al 16 de febrero del año corriente, un interesante artículo del Señor ISMAEL JOSÉ ROMERO, sobre el cultivo de la vainilla, el cual se leerá á continuación:

"Esta planta se produce espontáneamente en casi todas nuestras tierras templadas y calientes, desde 16° centígrado hasta lo más cálido, y se conocen entre nosotros tres clases. Pertenece al género *Epidendrum*.

"La clase primera tiene el tallo de 2 centímetros de grueso, la hoja de 6 á 8 centímetros de ancho, y su flor es amarilla y de unos 8 centímetros de largo. Esta clase es regular.

"La clase segunda, que es la mejor de las especies, es decir, la fina, tiene la hoja lanceolada, y la punta de ésta se enrolla mucho hacia la parte inferior. La flor es de color blanco, verdoso hacia su base, y tiene unos 4 centímetros de largo. Toda la planta tiene un verde que no es intenso. Esta vainilla es la más fragante, y por consiguiente la que da mejor perfume y tiene mayor precio.

"La tercera clase ó especie tiene las hojas casi lineales, es decir, de un mismo ancho en toda su extensión, y por lo regular la punta de la hoja está un poco vuelta hacia abajo. Toda la planta es de un verde intenso como el limón tierno; su flor es perfectamente igual á la ante

rior; su fruto es algo más corto y de poco olor. Éste es más intenso en las otras dos especies.

“En Colombia se conoce la vainilla con el nombre de *Platanillo*.

“El mejor modo de conocer la vainilla es por el perfume; pero como es muy raro encontrar en una mata un fruto bien sazonado, es necesario atenerse cuidadosamente á las señales dadas para no sufrir error en caso de que se quieran escoger las especies para sembrar. En este caso también se pueden preparar algunos frutos de diferentes matas, según el método que más adelante expondremos, para conocer así la más olorosa.

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

“La siembra de la vainilla se hace del modo siguiente:

“Antes de sembrarla, se quita toda clase de árboles y toda maleza, no dejando sino los arbustos que estén á 4 ó 5 metros de distancia, al pie de los cuales se ha de sembrar.

“Al pie de cada uno de esos arbustos, se siembran dos pedazos de tallo de vainilla de 40 á 50 centímetros de largo, dejando en medio el arbusto.

“Deben sembrarse siempre dos pedazos de tallo y de dos plantas diferentes, aunque de la misma especie, porque las matas no son todas hermafroditas y se necesita que el polen pase con facilidad de una á otra planta para que se fecunden ambas. Por falta de este requisito muchas matas no dan fruto, como ha sucedido en una que otra plantación que se ha querido fundar en Antioquía y algún otro punto.

“Puede sembrarse también la vainilla al pie de árboles grandes que no sean muy frondosos ó arrimada á ellos, ó al pie de las cercas de piedra, en donde prende muy bien, pues esa planta es parásita. Creemos que también sería muy útil hacer una especie de emparrado.

“Las nuevas plantas de vainilla deben conservarse limpias para que prosperen bien, y no debe temerse el manosearlas, aunque estén fructificando, pues se ha visto que mientras más se manosea una planta, más se vigoriza. El cuidado de no manosearlas debe tenerse únicamente cuando están floridas, para que la flor no caiga.

“La vainilla puede dar fruto al año de sembrada, pero esta primera cosecha es muy escasa; la segunda es mejor y la tercera bien abundante. En la primera cosecha da apenas diez á veinte vainillas; en la segunda de quince á treinta y en la tercera de cuarenta á cincuenta, producto que es casi igual de ahí en adelante. Una mata de vainilla puede durar, si se cuida, hasta cincuenta años.

“Los meses en que florece esta planta son los de febrero y marzo.

“Debe tenerse cuidado de que las plantaciones de vainilla queden resguardadas de los fuertes vientos y lluvias del norte, pues éstos hacen caer las flores y, por consiguiente, perder las cosechas. Para evitar eso, debe ponerse la plantación al sur de algún bosque ó arboleda.

“La cosecha de la vainilla se hace en el mes de abril, y dura hasta

junio. Sin embargo, la época precisa de coger el fruto, es cuando las vainillas tienen un color amarillento; antes de que esto suceda no deben cogerse, así como tampoco se debe dejar que se pasen, es decir, que vayan tomando vetas de color negro.

“En la vainilla, una vez que se desarrolla el fruto, no debe temerse que lo ataque algún insecto, pues la leche acre que contiene no lo permite. Sucede á veces que, aunque el fruto está en sazón, no toma el color amarillento, pero en ese caso se pone redondo, y para saber si está en perfecta madurez, se toma entre los dedos índice y pulgar, se soba apretándolo ligeramente, y si suena como si dentro se le quebrasen como cascarillas secas, es señal de que está en estado de cortarlo y de que también están así todas las demás. Cuando se seca el fruto y brota del todo la flor que la precede, cosa que pasa regularmente en octubre, es también señal de que puede cortarse. Esta práctica se adquiere en muy poco tiempo.

“Dice Humboldt que toda la vainilla que entra en el comercio es el producto de una sola especie de *Epidrendo*. Sin embargo, el mismo comercio la ha dividido en cuatro clases, así: la fina grande, la fina chica, la zacate y la basura. La fina grande y la fina chica tienen, poco más ó menos, el mismo precio. En la fina grande, el mazo de 50 vainillas pesa (se entiende que seca) diez ó doce onzas, y tiene cada vainilla de 15 á 20 centímetros de largo; la chica fina tiene de diez á quince centímetros y su peso es casi igual á la fina grande; la zacate es una vainilla larga, muy delgada y acuosa, y pesa más que las dos anteriores. Á esta vainilla se le da en Colombia el nombre de vainillón. Y, en fin, la basura se compone de los desperdicios de las clases anteriores.

“La altura del terreno, su naturaleza, el clima, la humedad, el aire, etc., influyen mucho sobre el tamaño de la vainilla, su aceite y aroma.

“La vainilla más común en el país es la chica, pero no hay la constancia de que es tan buena como la fina grande.

“La zacate, ó la que se llama comunmente vainillón, es muy abundante en las orillas de los caminos en nuestras tierras templadas y calientes y en los rastrojos. Á este fruto no se hace caso alguno en el país.

“El valor actual de la vainilla en Europa es el siguiente:

	Oro.
Fina grande (libra) .....	\$14. 00
Fina chica (libra) .....	12. 00
Zacate (libra) .....	6. 00
Basura (libra) .....	2. 50

“Y es de notarse que casi ese mismo precio tenía hace cuarenta años.

“El modo de confeccionar la vainilla para que produzca buen perfume, es el siguiente:

“Se pone el fruto al sol sobre una especie de barbacoa, que debe

estar cubierta por los lados con telas gruesas ó petates para evitar que le dé viento á la vainilla mientras se está asoleando. Este toldo es necesario en las tierras templadas en donde casi siempre corren vientos fríos, pero inútil en tierras calientes y secas, como Villavieja, Tocaima, Ambalema y otras.

“Nunca se debe poner el fruto á asolear de modo que toque el suelo, y siempre deben estar separados unos de otros.

“El asoleo debe hacerse desde las nueve ó diez de la mañana hasta las tres ó cuatro de la tarde.

“Durante el asoleo deben voltearse para que tomen por los lados.

“Todos los días, al tender las vainillas al sol, se deben registrar y pasarlas entre los dedos índice y pulgar: si hay alguna manchada ó rajada se separa, para que no manche las buenas.

“Cuando se van secando, cosa que se conoce por los pliegues ó arrugas que se forman en ellas, se soban de arriba abajo con mucho cuidado, y lo más ligero posible para no romperlas; luego se envuelven en una tela de lana, sin que se toquen unas con otras, y se siguen asoleando y sobando, hasta que tomando una entre los dedos índice y pulgar, dé vuelta con facilidad entre ellos, y ésta será la señal de haberse secado.

“Las que ya estuvieren secas se colocarán en cajoncillos de madera que se taparán bien, para que no penetre el aire. Cada cuatro días, ó seis á lo más, se destapan para ver el estado en que se encuentran, y si se hallan húmedas ó amenazan podrirse, se ponen otra vez al sol como antes se ha explicado, y luego que se sequen se guardan nuevamente en las cajas.

“No se debe olvidar esta última operación de que hemos hablado.

“Para recogerla cuando se está asoleando, es necesario llevar al lugar en que está tendida, cajones de madera ó petacas de cuero ó de paja y frazadas, para colocarla allí y envolverla, y que comience á producir calor y sudar y formar el perfume ó aroma, que no debe dejarse escapar, evitando, como hemos dicho ya, el contacto de unas con otras y que les dé el aire frío, y, mucho menos, el sereno. De esta manera se debe guardar por la noche en las habitaciones más abrigadas.

“Puede suceder que por el mal tiempo, cuando se ha comenzado á asolear la vainilla, no se pueda obtener en ella los sudores que necesita, y en ese caso los cajones ó petacas donde se guarda deben ponerse en estufas ó colgadas encima de pequeños braseros que den un calor moderado, evitando de todos modos el que le dé el frío cuando está sudando.

“Los sudores en la vainilla, lo mismo que en el tabaco en rama, son los que producen en el artículo su mayor bondad; de manera, pues, que ésa es la parte en que más debe fijarse el agricultor, como lo hace el cosechero de tabaco en lo que llama pilada.”



## DEL ACERO AL NÍQUEL.

Con este título publica el "Scientific American," correspondiente al mes de marzo de 1900, el siguiente interesante artículo:

"Durante el año de 1890 el Secretario de Marina de los Estados Unidos tuvo confidencialmente noticias de que los señores SCHNEIDER Y COMPAÑÍA, del Creusot, habían inventado unas nuevas planchas de blindaje que contenían  $3\frac{1}{2}$  por ciento de níquel. Con el afán característico americano, de contar con la manera más adelantada de proteger sus buques de guerra, y con el objeto de hacer ensayos completos de las mejores planchas que se producían en otros países, se pidieron á Europa tres planchas de blindaje: una á Inglaterra y dos á Francia. La de Inglaterra era del carácter y composición de las que el Almirantazgo de aquel país emplea en sus buques. De las dos de Francia, la una era de acero solo, y la otra de acero al níquel. Las tres planchas se probaron en Anápolis con un cañon de  $6\frac{1}{2}$  pulgadas, disparando á 15 metros. La plancha inglesa se hizo pedazos, la primera de las francesas presentó grandes grietas, y la del acero al níquel sufrió comparativamente poco daño.

"Esta prueba fué concluyente en favor de que la plancha de acero al níquel correspondía á lo que el Gobierno de los Estado Unidos deseaba para proteger sus buques. En verdad fué una revelación para todas las naciones civilizadas del globo, produciendo una revolución en la manera de fabricar las planchas de blindaje. El Congreso votó inmediatamente un crédito de \$1,000,000 para compra de blindaje, exigiendo que fueran planchas al níquel. De este modo entramos en 1890 en la era del acero al níquel por iniciativa de Francia. Su desarrollo se combinó con el procedimiento HARVEY para endurecer la parte exterior de las planchas de aquella clase.

"El acero al níquel que se emplea para blindajes, para varas de émbolo, llantas, ejes, ejes de hélices, etc., contiene generalmente de 3 á  $3\frac{1}{2}$  por ciento de níquel. Esta pequeña proporción produce un aumento en el límite de elasticidad de 75 por ciento y en la resistencia á la tensión de 30 por ciento sobre la que tiene el acero usual, sin perjudicar al alargamiento ni á la reducción del área.

"Estos hechos han venido á demostrar además que hay en el acero al níquel, para fabricar muchos objetos, un metal de absoluta confianza sin la traidora propiedad saltadiza característica del acero común por la cristalización.

"En la fabricación de acero al níquel en crisoles se han obtenido muchos é interesantes resultados. Según experiencia, por cada 1 por ciento de níquel que se agrega, hay un aumento de dureza correspondiente, y una disminución en su propiedad de prestarse al temple hasta que

se llega al 16 á 18 por ciento de níquel. Al llegar á este punto, el metal resulta excesivamente duro y se hace extremadamente difícil el trabajarlo con herramienta alguna en frío, pero en caliente se puede forjar y laminar del modo ordinario, como el acero simple. Si se continúa aumentando la cantidad de níquel después del punto citado, al llegar al acero con 25 por ciento, nos encontramos con un metal excesivamente blando, que no se puede templar en agua, pero que se puede prensar, doblar, laminar ó estirar en la hilera en frío, para formar rayos, para ruedas de bicicletas y otras partes, cucharas, armazones de sillas de montar, arneses, etc.

“A la dureza máxima de 16 á 18 por ciento de níquel, se pueden hacer cuchillos, que solo necesitan darles la forma forjándolos y martillándolos débilmente hasta que se enfrían. Después que llegan á esto, las hojas resultan muy elásticas; sin peligro de que se quiebren al doblarse. Estos cuchillos pulimentados toman un lustre hermoso con un ligero tinte azulado, que tanto estiman los buenos fabricantes de cuchillos de mesa.

“El acero al crisol que sólo contenga 5 por ciento de níquel en combinación con el contenido conveniente en carburos, es un producto extremadamente resistente y á propósito para herramientas de filo. muelles, etc. Las muchas pruebas que se han hecho han enseñado que se debe dar la preferencia para estas aplicaciones al acero que contenga de  $2\frac{1}{2}$  á  $4\frac{1}{2}$  por ciento, pues se encuentra gran dificultad para conseguir buen temple cuando el contenido de níquel pasa de  $4\frac{1}{2}$  por ciento. Mientras se mantiene en los límites antes expresados, y cuando se fabrica cuidadosamente, se obtiene un acero ideal para herramientas de una resistencia admirable, capaz de dar gran resultado después de forjado, endurecido y templado de la manera usual.

“Como el acero al níquel se enfría pronto, es preciso no retirar los crisoles sino cuando están á una buena temperatura y colar inmediatamente. Es conveniente tener en cuenta que el níquel tiene gran afinidad por el oxígeno, y que hay que usar un flujo á propósito para eliminar aquél, evitando que el níquel se oxide durante la fusión, pues de lo contrario, se obtendría una masa esponjosa, inaplicable á ningún fin industrial.”

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## LOCOMOTORAS AMERICANAS EN EUROPA.

Los Señores CHARLES PEDEZERT y JOSEPH FERRAND, empleados de importancia en los ferrocarriles de Francia, han estado últimamente en Filadelfia. El objeto de su visita es estudiar el sistema ferrocarrilero de los Estados Unidos, y, al mismo tiempo, examinar las diez locomotoras que están en vía de construcción para los ferrocarriles franceses en los talleres de Baldwin.

El ferrocarril que estos señores representan fué el primero que introdujo locomotoras americanas en Francia. Hace como dos años se envió un pedido de diez locomotoras á la Compañía Baldwin, y durante cosa de ocho meses dichas máquinas han estado en uso en Francia. Algún tiempo después se pidió un número igual, y estas locomotoras están ahora en construcción. El trabajo que han hecho las que se hallan funcionando ha demostrado de una manera evidente su eficacia. Á pesar de los dos mil duros que cada locomotora de Baldwin paga en Francia como derechos de introducción, y de los otros gastos indispensables, los fabricantes pueden venderlas allá á un precio menor que el que se cobra por máquinas de esta clase de construcción europea.

Los experimentos hechos con las locomotoras de Baldwin han servido notablemente para desarrollar el interés que hoy se siente en Francia en cuanto se relaciona con el sistema ferrocarrilero de los Estados Unidos. Varios representantes de diferentes vías férreas francesas han visto las locomotoras americanas en operación y se han manifestado muy complacidos con ellas. Además de estas máquinas, se han pedido de Francia á los Estados Unidos vagones de acero para carga.

Una de las razones más poderosas que han inducido á los franceses á pedir locomotoras á este país para sus ferrocarriles, haciendo á un lado la excelente calidad del artículo, es la prontitud con que estas máquinas se fabrican en los Estados Unidos. Entre los países que ofrecen excelente mercado á esta producción americana deben mencionarse Rusia y España. En opinión de los citados señores PEDEZERT y FERRAND, las locomotoras americanas han dado en Europa los resultados más satisfactorios. Un hecho notable á este respecto es que hasta de Bélgica, que se consideraba el gran país constructor de locomotoras, se han pedido máquinas de esta clase á los Estados Unidos.

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## EL PROGRESO DEL COMERCIO Y LA INDUSTRIA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Dice el periódico francés "Revue du Commerce Extérieur," correspondiente al 3 de marzo de este año, que el comercio de exportación de los Estados Unidos rivaliza ya con el de la Gran Bretaña, y que probablemente lo superará dentro de pocos años. Agrega que esto se sabe ya en Francia, pero que se ignora que no es el aumento en las cosechas lo que constituye una verdadera amenaza para las industrias europeas, sino el crecimiento en la exportación de manufacturas americanas. Asegura el citado periódico que, aunque en 1899 la exportación de productos agrícolas fué mucho menor que en 1898, las exportaciones totales de los Estados Unidos fueron mayores en el primero de estos dos años, lo cual se debe á los productos de las fábricas, cuyo valor en

1898 fué de \$308,000,000, y en 1899 ascendió á cerca de \$381,000,000. La revista menciona las causas que supone han producido este enorme desarrollo comercial é industrial.

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## EL COBRE EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El artículo que á continuación se verá fué tomado de la “Revista Comercial é Industrial de Minas,” importante periódico mensual que sale á luz en Santiago de Chile. Dicho artículo fué publicado en el número correspondiente al 15 de febrero próximo pasado.

“Los Estados Unidos es uno de los países en donde se produce más cobre; se elabora y consume ahí mismo el total de su producción, importando á veces cantidades no despreciables para poder asistir á sus innumerables establecimientos laminadores y abastecer sus industrias cada día más crecientes.

“En los últimos meses del año que acaba de terminar ha aumentado la producción de cobre de una manera notable. Á este respecto dice ‘The Financial Times,’ de Londres, de diciembre próximo pasado, hablando de la gran combinación cobrera en los Estados Unidos, que cree que el aumento en las explotaciones de este metal durante el tiempo traerá como consecuencia lógica la caída de la manipulación que hacía The American Copper Syndicate.

“La baja en el precio del cobre, últimamente, se ha dejado sentir de una manera notable, y con esto The American Copper Syndicate ha sufrido una depreciación marcada en sus valores. Sólo una pequeña parte de las acciones fué suscrita por el público en Europa y América. Créese á este respecto que la Standard Oil Company y sus amigos poseen de los \$75,000,000 de acciones, un valor más ó menos de \$60,000,000 de esta combinación. Es opinión general que este mismo sindicato es dueño de acciones en muchas otras sociedades cobreras por valor de más de \$40,000,000. Por consiguiente, esta formidable asociación es poseedora de cuantiosos intereses en negocios de cobre que representan un valor de 20,000,000 de libras esterlinas.

“Una sociedad de tanta importancia debe resguardar sus valores y sostener su poder, pues ella está en condición de mantener á su antojo la producción y precios del cobre, y al mismo tiempo forzar á los consumidores á entrar en el mercado.

“Los bancos americanos han principiado á ofrecer en la Bolsa acciones de este sindicato, y se calcula que uno solo de estos bancos es dueño de acciones por valor de \$20,000,000.

“Se considera casi segura una crisis que vendrá pronto, y entonces el precio del cobre será más bajo y su consumo mucho mayor.”

## LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EN EL PACÍFICO.

Este es el lema de un notable artículo publicado en el número 152 del "Public Ledger," de Filadelfia, correspondiente al 20 de marzo próximo pasado. Entre otras cosas interesantes, dicho artículo dice lo siguiente:

"Pocos americanos saben cuántas islas poseen los Estados Unidos en el Pacífico y la importancia de las mismas. Son no menos de 1,500 á 1,600 y comprenden todos los climas y zonas, ofreciendo, al mismo tiempo, muchos tipos diferentes de la especie humana en diversos grados de civilización, desde los aleusianos vestidos de pieles, hasta los negros medio desnudos de las Filipinas.

"Estas posesiones varían en cuanto al tamaño, desde las que son simplemente rocas ó bancos de coral, hasta las grandes, como la isla de Luzón, que tiene 41,000 millas cuadradas, ó sea una extensión igual á la de New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut y New Jersey. En esa vasta región se encuentran las pieles del Ártico, las frutas de la zona templada y los productos de los trópicos.

"Las posesiones más importantes de los Estados Unidos en el Pacífico comprenden el grupo de Santa Bárbara, cerca de la costa de California, las islas que forman parte del territorio de Alaska, las de Hawai y el archipiélago de las Filipinas. Las islas de las regiones árticas incluyen un grupo de gran tamaño, cerca de la costa meridional de Alaska, y toda la cadena de las Aleusianas que se extiende de América á Asia. El archipiélago de Hawai consta de doce á quince islas de más ó menos importancia. Hawai es como del tamaño del estado de Connecticut. Estas islas quedan 2,100 millas al sudoeste de San Francisco. Su extensión total es de 6,600 millas cuadradas. El grupo de las Filipinas comprende como 1,400 islas é islotes, con una extensión territorial de 114,326 millas cuadradas.

"También poseen los Estados Unidos la isla de Guam, del grupo de las Marianas ó de los Ladrones, y otras de menor importancia."

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EL COMERCIO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EN EL ORIENTE.

El "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" ha publicado sobre este particular un notable artículo, en el cual dice, entre otras cosas, lo siguiente:

"Las casas exportadoras de Manila han comenzado de nuevo sus negocios con actividad. El tráfico de exportación ha experimentado varios cambios á causa de la ocupación de las Filipinas por los Estados

Unidos, cambios que todavía no se han realizado por completo. Los comerciantes de aquella colonia se han visto obligados á estudiar las nuevas condiciones bajo las cuales se harán en adelante las importaciones de manufacturas extranjeras. Antes de la guerra hispano-americana se introducían en las Filipinas artículos de toda clase provenientes de Inglaterra, España, Francia, Bélgica, etc. Los Estados Unidos, cuyo commercio con aquellas islas era antes muy pequeño, están ahora abasteciendo á Manila, plaza que cada día tiene más importancia. Los comerciantes de aquella ciudad se han convencido de que para competir con los americanos tienen necesidad de importar mercancías de los Estados Unidos, y por esta razón es que se ven ahora en todas las tiendas de Manila los productos de las fábricas de dicho país.”

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## CUBA.

### DESARROLLO DE LA INSTRUCCIÓN PÚBLICA.

Se asegura que en el espacio de tres meses el número de alumnos que asiste á las escuelas públicas se ha elevado de 4,000 á cerca de 80,000, debido al sistema introducido por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos. Hay ahora como 2,000 maestros, y ninguno puede tener más de 50 alumnos á su cargo. En las ciudades los dos sexos reciben enseñanza en departamentos separados, pero en las pequeñas poblaciones ocupan uno solo. Todos los maestros son cubanos. La lengua inglesa forma parte del curso de estudios.

En la actualidad el tesoro de la isla paga todos los gastos de las escuelas, no habiendo impuestos locales para este fin. Dichos gastos ascenderán en 1900 como á \$4,000,000. Los sueldos de los maestros son altos, comparados con lo que se les paga en otros países, pues el más bajo es de \$600 al año, y en la Habana ningún maestro recibe menos de \$900.

Un hecho digno de notar en cuanto á la educación superior, es el haber sido nombrado para la cátedra de Patología Intertropical, que acaba de ser establecida en la Universidad de la Habana, el Dr. JUAN GUITERAS, que fué profesor en la Universidad de Pennsylvania. El Dr. GUITERAS se encuentra actualmente haciendo estudios en Europa. Se considera como un acto muy patriótico por parte de este distinguido profesor el haber dejado su puesto en la Universidad de Pennsylvania á fin de regresar á Cuba á dedicarse á la enseñanza.

### INGRESOS TOTALES.

Según el informe enviado al Senado de los Estados Unidos por el Departamento de la Guerra, los ingresos totales desde el 1° de enero

de 1899 al 1° de enero de 1900 ascendieron á \$18,025,919 y los egresos á \$15,333,250, lo cual muestra un saldo á favor del erario de \$2,692,669.

El 3 de abril el Departamento de la Guerra publicó un informe, en el cual se hace una comparación entre las entradas de aduana en los meses de enero y febrero de 1900 y las de los mismos meses en 1899. Durante los primeros, las entradas fueron de \$2,772,619.81, y durante los segundos de \$2,014,933.66.

#### FERROCARRILES EN CUBA.

El periódico "Daily Journal of Finance" dice, en su número del 28 de marzo próximo pasado, que Sir WILLIAM VAN HORNE, ex-presidente del ferrocarril Canadian Pacific, y algunos capitalistas de los Estados Unidos tienen la intención de establecer en Cuba un solo sistema ferroviario que ponga en comunicación las principales poblaciones de la isla. De esta manera podrán los agricultores transportar sus productos á todos los mercados. Si se quiere desarrollar la riqueza natural de Cuba, hay que proveerla de buenos medios de transportación, y este resultado se obtendrá si se lleva á efecto el mencionado proyecto.

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### ECUADOR.

#### LA IMPRENTA Y EL PERIODISMO EN LA REPÚBLICA.

Con este lema el Señor Don FRANCISCO ANDRADE MARÍN, uno de los miembros correspondientes honorarios de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas, se ha servido escribir para el BOLETÍN MENSUAL el artículo que á continuación se leerá:

"El nacimiento de la imprenta en el Ecuador corresponde al año 1750, en que los Jesuitas la fundaron en Ambato (capital de provincia) para atender á sus necesidades domésticas. Diez años después los mismos religiosos establecieron otra imprenta en Quito, capital de la República. Los trabajos de la imprenta, en los primeros años, estuvieron limitados á la publicación de sermones, pláticas, oraciones fúnebres, panegíricos de santos, novenas y pequeños devocionarios, según consta de los prolijos estudios bibliográficos de los Señores Dr. PABLO HERRERA, Ilmo. Obispo FEDERICO GONZÁLEZ SUÁREZ y del joven chileno Don NICOLÁS ANRIQUE. De los estudios de estos señores, aparece también que en 1785 la imprenta sirvió ya para algunas apreciaciones médicas, relativas al modo de curar el sarampión, y que en 1792 el Obispo de Quito, Don JOSÉ PÉREZ CALAMA, se sirvió de ella para publicar pastorales acerca de la conveniencia de la apertura del camino del Pailón á Malbucho, y para un plan de estudios de la Universidad de Quito.

"Desde el 5 de enero de 1792 puede decirse, con toda propiedad, que se fundó en Quito el primer periódico político, por cuanto, en esa

fecha, el ilustre Don FRANCISCO EUGENIO DE SANTA CRUZ Y ESPEJO publicó el primer número del periódico titulado 'Primicias de la Cultura de Quito,' el cual continuó quincenalmente hasta el mes de marzo del mismo año. Desde entonces hasta 1809, fecha de los primeros esfuerzos de emancipación política, y hasta 1830, en que el Ecuador se constituyó definitivamente en República independiente de España y desmembrada de la de Colombia, la prensa continuó sirviendo de una manera lenta y poco fructuosa á los intereses religiosos y políticos y casi nada á los científicos; pues que no hubo trabajos de mayor significación en tal sentido. Con posterioridad, la imprenta fué ya el órgano oficial para la publicación de todo lo concerniente al servicio de la administración pública, como la publicación de la Constitución, leyes, decretos y resoluciones emanadas, respectivamente, de los poderes legislativo, ejecutivo y judicial. Poco después, comenzaron á publicarse varios periódicos políticos y literarios, hasta que, por fin, desde 1861, respetados medianamente los fueros de la imprenta, ésta ha servido como un medio franco y eficaz para la difusión de ideas. Lo religioso (en primera línea), lo político (en gran parte), lo literario (también en parte considerable), y lo artístico, lo comercial y lo científico (en última escala) han ido cayendo bajo su dominio, más ó menos beneficioso, y sin más limitación que la responsabilidad á que, según la ley, están sujetas las publicaciones por la imprenta.

"No son muchas las obras serias, científicas, literarias y comerciales que hasta aquí se han publicado en el Ecuador. Quizá pudieran enumerarse, por todo, cosa de treinta ó cuarenta obras. Mas el número de hojas sueltas y folletos sobre diversos ramos de interés político y social es ya muy considerable.

"Las obras que merecen especial mención deben ser el Resumen de la Historia del Ecuador, por el Dr. PEDRO FERMÍN CEVALLOS; la Historia General de la República del Ecuador, por el muy Ilustre Obispo de Ibarra, Dr. Don FEDERICO GONZÁLEZ SUÁREZ; la Geografía, por el Dr. TEODORO WOLF; las obras del Padre SOLANO; el Curso de Filosofía Escolástica del Jesuita MANUEL DE J. PROAÑO; la Química del Padre DRESEL, también Jesuita, y varias otras que por ahora no es del caso enumerarlas.

"Podemos afirmar que en la actualidad no hay provincia sin imprenta, y que en varias de ellas se hacen publicaciones de diversa significación.

"En el año 1893, por ejemplo, el estado del periodismo y de las imprentas era el siguiente:

"Se contaban cincuenta y siete imprentas y cuarenta y tres periódicos, según datos oficiales prolijamente recogidos por el Ministro de Fomento. Estaban distribuidos de este modo:

"La capital, trece imprentas y trece periódicos.

"Guayaquil, trece imprentas y doce periódicos.

"Azuay (Cuenca), nueve imprentas y tres periódicos.



“Manabí, tres imprentas y tres periódicos.

“Los Ríos (Babahoyo), dos imprentas y tres periódicos.

“Chimborazo (Riobamba), tres imprentas y tres periódicos.

“Loja, dos imprentas y dos periódicos.

“El Oro, dos imprentas y un periódico.

“Bolívar (Guaranda y San Miguel), dos imprentas y un periódico.

“Imbabura (Ibarra), dos imprentas y un periódico.

“Tungurahua (Ambato), dos imprentas y un periódico.

“Y, por fin, Carchi, León, Cañar y Esmeraldas, una imprenta en cada una de estas provincias, con publicaciones ocasionales.

“Guayaquil, la ciudad más rica, la más comercial, y que por muchos respectos disputa la primacía á la capital, ha ocupado y ocupa incuestionablemente el primer lugar en el periodismo.”

La Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas tiene la intención de publicar dentro de poco tiempo, en forma de folleto, un directorio de los periódicos que se dan á luz en todos los países que forman la Unión Internacional. Ya la Oficina posee acerca de este particular considerable número de datos que se están poniendo en orden, y los representantes de la Unión Internacional en el exterior se ocupan actualmente en obtener informes relativos al mismo asunto.

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## ESTADOS UNIDOS.

### COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

#### IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 616 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de febrero de 1900, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los ocho meses que terminaron en febrero de 1900, comparados con igual período de 1899. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Departamento de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión; de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de febrero, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en abril.

#### EL COMERCIO EXTERIOR EN FEBRERO DE 1900.

No registra la historia comercial del país un mes de febrero tan notable como el pasado, durante el cual las exportaciones fueron por término medio, según el informe publicado por la Secretaría de

Hacienda el 24 de marzo, de \$5,000,000 por cada día de trabajo. Además de esto, las exportaciones excedieron á los importaciones en una cantidad que no se había visto antes en ningún mes de febrero.

Siempre son grandes en febrero las importaciones, y á menudo acontece que igualan y aun exceden á las exportaciones, y por esto es de notar el hecho de que las exportaciones en febrero de este año excedieron á las importaciones en más de \$50,000,000.

Según el informe, ya citado, de la Secretaría de Hacienda, las importaciones y exportaciones durante los meses de febrero de 1899 y 1900 fueron como sigue:

## IMPORTACIONES.

	1900.	1899.
Artículos de alimentación y animales.....	\$16,254,153	\$17,616,759
Artículos en estado crudo para industrias nacionales.....	25,936,601	19,783,058
Artículos en todo ó en parte manufacturados para uso en las artes mecánicas.....	6,732,437	4,091,413
Artículos manufacturados, listos para el consumo.....	10,734,428	9,520,993
Artículos de lujo.....	9,116,531	9,246,229
Total.....	68,774,150	60,258,452

## EXPORTACIONES.

Productos de—		
La agricultura.....	\$75,097,746	\$62,378,985
Las manufacturas.....	34,226,128	24,489,860
Las minas.....	3,134,022	1,889,826
Los bosques.....	3,548,209	2,741,927
La pesca.....	389,560	253,089
Productos varios.....	946,779	431,685
Total.....	117,336,444	92,185,372
Reexportación de productos extranjeros—		
Libres de derecho.....	1,422,071	726,368
Gravados con derechos.....	631,387	925,411

Delas importaciones en el mes de febrero de este año, 44.66 por ciento fueron libres de derecho, contra 46.58 por ciento en 1899. La cantidad recaudada por las aduanas en el mes de febrero de este año ascendió á \$19,882,253, contra \$16,921,572 en febrero de 1899.

## INFORME OFICIAL SOBRE LAS SEMENTERAS.

En la revista mensual de las sementeras en los Estados Unidos, publicada el 1° del corriente, se lee lo que sigue:

Al este del río Misisipi, excepto en los estados del sur, la estación no ha sido desfavorable, habiendo llovido mucho en una parte de los estados del golfo. En la región de los lagos y en Nueva Inglaterra ha nevado mucho. En el declive del Pacífico y en las montañas Roqueñas las condiciones han sido muy favorables.

Se han recibido informes desfavorables acerca del trigo mocho, de los estados de Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania y New Jersey, así como de algunas partes de Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ken-

tucky y Maryland. En la costa del Pacífico el trigo mocho se presenta, generalmente hablando, en excelentes condiciones. Se ha sembrado trigo de primavera en la sección meridional de la región donde crece el trigo mocho, así como en el estado de Montana. Se está sembrando maíz en los estados del sur, y en la parte meridional de Texas casi toda la siembra se hizo en marzo.

Cuando el informe fué publicado se estaba sembrando avena en Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio y Kansas, mientras que en Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Tennessee y Mississippi las plantaciones de avena estaban ya bastante desarrolladas.

Se estaba sembrado algodón en la sección meridional de la parte del país dedicado á este cultivo.

La condición de la cosecha de frutas es favorable, aunque los melocotones han sufrido algo en Missouri, Arkansas y Ohio.

### CONDICIÓN DE LOS AGRICULTORES.

El periódico "American Agriculturist" publica, en su número correspondiente al 17 de marzo de este año, un artículo en que se pinta la condición de las clases agrícolas en los Estados Unidos, y prueba que éstas gozan de mayor prosperidad que nunca. Asegura el "Agriculturist" que los productos agrícolas de los Estados Unidos durante este año, excederán en más de \$1,600,000,000 al valor de los mismos en los años de 1894 y 1896, en que la agricultura estuvo muy abatida.

Calcula dicho periódico que el valor de las propiedades agrícolas en este país es, probablemente, en la actualidad como de \$14,500,000,000 y que el valor de los ganados asciende á \$2,558,000,000. Opina el "Agriculturist" que la cantidad de dinero invertido en empresas agrícolas en los Estados Unidos es como de \$17,550,000,000.

El número de propiedades agrícolas ha aumentado en 400,000 durante los últimos diez años.

### PRODUCCIÓN DE PIEDRAS PRECIOSAS.

A principios de marzo, Mr. GEORGE F. KUNZ presentó su informe anual á la Oficina de Estudios Geológicos sobre la producción de piedras preciosas en los Estados Unidos durante el año de 1899. Entre los puntos de interés á que Mr. KUNZ se refiere, figura el aumento en la producción de zafiros en el condado de Fergus, en Montana. En el condado Granite, del mismo estado, se descubrieron también zafiros de diferentes matices. Ha continuado la producción de turquesas en Nuevo México, y también se encuentra este mineral en los estados de California y Nevada. En cuanto á los precios de las piedras preciosas, dice Mr. KUNZ que ha aumentado mucho el valor de las esmeraldas, perlas y diamantes tallados. Al hablar del arte de tallar diamantes en los Estados Unidos, se asegura en dicho informe que ha llegado á un estado de desarrollo que antes no tenía.

El valor total de las piedras preciosas producidas en 1899 fué de \$185,750, contra \$160,920 en 1898. Por la primera vez en varios años los Estados Unidos han producido diamantes, aunque en pequeña cantidad. De las piedras preciosas producidas en 1899, la que representó mayor valor fué la turquesa. Los zafiros ocuparon el segundo lugar. La producción de piedras preciosas ha venido aumentando en los Estados Unidos desde 1896.

#### **ESTADÍSTICA DE LAS POSESIONES INSULARES.**

El 28 de marzo de este año, el Departamento de la Guerra envió al Senado de los Estados Unidos un informe relativo al arancel que actualmente está vigente en Puerto Rico, las Filipinas y la isla de Guam.

Las entradas totales en Puerto Rico, desde que la isla fué ocupada por los Estados Unidos, hasta el 31 de enero del año en curso, ascendieron á \$2,596,768, y los gastos á \$2,049,057, lo cual deja ver un saldo á favor del erario de \$536,711. Estos gastos se dividieron así: para obras públicas \$682,516; para la recaudación de la renta interior \$322,752, y para policía \$141,684.

Las entradas en las Filipinas, hasta el 31 de diciembre de 1899, ascendieron á \$6,696,080, y los gastos á \$5,279,482, lo que dejó un saldo á favor del erario de \$1,416,598.

#### **TRÁNSITO RÁPIDO EN NUEVA YORK.**

El día 24 de marzo próximo pasado se inauguró en Nueva York la gran obra del tránsito rápido, que pronto permitirá al público trasladarse á los puntos más remotos de la ciudad en doble menos tiempo del que ahora se necesita. Al hablar de dicha obra, el "New York Herald" se expresa así:

"El túnel tendrá una longitud de 21 millas. Para ello será menester excavar 2,000,000 de carretadas de tierra; quitar y reponer cerca de 16 millas de cloacas; se necesitarán 500,000 varas cúbicas de piedras de granito y de asfalto para recomponer las calles; más de 65,000 toneladas de acero para vigas; 8,000 toneladas de hierro fundido para obras tubulares y construcción de estaciones; cerca de 20,000 varas cúbicas de ladrillo común y esmaltado para arquería y estaciones; se tenderán 500,000 pies de carriles subterráneos y 60,000 de carriles elevados. El túnel costará \$35,000,000, y es el mayor contrato que jamás se adjudicó á una persona sola."

#### **POBLACIÓN INDIA.**

En un apéndice á su informe anual, el Comisionado de Asuntos de los Indios de los Estados Unidos incorpora los informes especiales de varias agencias. Por éstos se ve que la población india del país es de 297,905 habitantes. De este número, 42,597 saben leer y 53,314 pueden

hablar inglés. Se han construído para los indios 25,236 casas, de las cuales se construyeron 1,153 durante el año de 1899. El número de nacimientos fué de 4,237 y el de defunciones de 5,253. Había 348 iglesias con 31,656 feligreses. Las cantidades de dinero con que contribuyeron durante el año, para el adelanto de los indios, las sociedades religiosas y otras fueron las siguientes: para gastos de educación, \$277,531, y para obras religiosas \$119,407.

El Gobierno tiene en las diferentes reservas como 250 escuelas, en las que se emplean más de 2,000 maestros. Además de estos establecimientos de enseñanza, hay otros en que se da una educación más elevada, tales como la escuela de Carlisle y los institutos de Haskell y Hampton. Desde que estos planteles fueron fundados, muchos indios se han graduado en ellos. Desgraciadamente, algunos han vuelto á adoptar su antiguo método de vida, pero otros se han dedicado á diversas artes, á la enseñanza, etc.

### EL ZACATÓN.

Dice el periódico "Farm Implement News" que las dos terceras partes de la cosecha de zacatón ó millo de escoba, en el mundo entero, es producida por el estado de Illinois. El consumo anual de este artículo es como de 30,000 toneladas, y hace pocos años el referido estado produjo en una sola estación 28,000 toneladas. Según el informe del Director de la Finca de Experimentos Agrícolas de la Universidad de Illinois, el zacatón cuesta, por término medio, \$50 la tonelada, y se vende á \$70. Se ha llegado á vender hasta \$30. Se necesitan tres acres de terreno para producir una tonelada de la parte del tallo que se usa para hacer escobas. Como la cosecha de 1899 parece haber sido insuficiente, lo cual ha hecho que se eleve el precio del zacatón, se ha ensayado, con más ó menos éxito, substituirlo en la manufactura de escobas con otros artículos, tales como fibras, alambres, etc.

### PRODUCCIÓN DE AZÚCAR DE ARCE.

El azúcar y el jarabe de arce se obtienen de la savia del árbol del mismo nombre, que crece al noreste de los Estados Unidos y al sudeste del Canadá. Existen como treinta especies bien conocidas de esta planta. Este árbol es muy frondoso, y se eleva á una altura de 75 pies, por término medio. El jarabe y el azúcar de arce son producidos principalmente por los estados de Vermont, Massachusetts y Ohio. Hace un cuarto de siglo, la manera de obtener estos productos era muy imperfecta, pero en la actualidad el procedimiento es mucho más expedito. La estación durante la cual se recogen dichos artículos, puede durar desde unos pocos días hasta dos meses.

Cada árbol da como un galón de jarabe, por término medio. Se ha visto á un árbol de 6 pies de diámetro, lo cual es un tamaño extraordinario, producir un barril de savia en veinticuatro horas. El jarabe de

arce se vende de 50 centavos á \$1 por galón. En 1899 el valor del azúcar y jarabe de arce producidos en el estado de Ohio ascendió á \$1,250,000.

#### ACERO DE BESSEMER.

El Boletín de la American Iron and Steel Association de los Estados Unidos ha recogido datos estadísticos relativos al acero de Bessemer en lingotes y á rieles del mismo metal. La producción total de lingotes en 1899 fué de 7,586,354 toneladas, contra 6,609,017 toneladas en 1898, ó sea un aumento de 977,337 toneladas.

La producción de rieles de acero de Bessemer fué de 2,240,767 toneladas, contra 1,955,427 toneladas en 1898. El periódico "Iron Age" calcula que la producción total de toda clase de rieles en 1899 fué de 2,300,000 toneladas. Muy pocos rieles de hierro se hacen ahora en los Estados Unidos.

#### FÁBRICAS DE GÉNEROS DE ALGODÓN.

El incremento en la fabricación de toda clase de géneros de algodón en el sur de los Estados Unidos continúa tan activo como siempre. El periódico "The New Orleans Times-Democrat" dice que en un día se fundaron cuatro fábricas en los estados de Georgia y Mississippi, las cuales requieren un capital de \$1,100,000. El censo que se levantará en este año dará á conocer de una manera exacta este extraordinario progreso industrial, y una comparación con el estado de cosas cuando se hizo el censo de 1890, revelará uno de los fenómenos más notables que este país ha visto en su desarrollo fabril, fenómeno calculado, agrega el citado periódico, para dar mucho en que pensar á los fabricantes de la Nueva Inglaterra.

#### ACUÑACIÓN DE PLATA.

Las casas de moneda de los Estados Unidos van á ocuparse durante muchos meses en acuñar de \$80,000,000 de la plata que fué comprada de conformidad con la ley conocida con el nombre de "Sherman Act." De la mencionada suma, \$20,000,000 serán en moneda menuda, y el resto en *dollars*. Mr. GEORGE E. ROBERTS, Director la de Moneda, dice que hay gran necesidad de moneda menuda.

La plata en pasta que va á servir para la acuñación se encuentra ahora en la casa de moneda de Filadelfia, pero también la de Nueva Orleans va á tomar parte en el trabajo mencionado. Cuando la plata en pasta fué comprada, el Gobierno emitió en pago billetes del Tesoro, pagaderos en plata, pero éstos van á ser reemplazados con las nuevas monedas de plata.

#### ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE GANADERÍA.

La Asociación Internacional de Ganadería va á abrir una exposición en la ciudad de Chicago, que durará del 1° al 8 de diciembre de este año,

y anuncia que la clasificación preliminar y la lista de premios están listas para ser distribuidas. Para obtener estas publicaciones basta dirigirse á la "International Live Stock Exposition, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill., U. S. A."

Los directores de la exposición aseguran que México, algunas de las repúblicas sudamericanas y varios países europeos estarán representados en ella. Muchos millares de *dollars* van á ser distribuidos en calidad de premios.

#### EL TRIGAL MÁS GRANDE DE CALIFORNIA.

El campo de trigo más grande de California cubre, según asegura el periódico "Export Implement Age," 25,000 acres, ó sean 40 millas cuadradas. Este enorme trigal está situado á orillas del río San Joaquín, cerca del pueblo de Clovis, en el condado de Madera. La recolección de la cosecha será un trabajo hercúleo, para el cual se necesitarán más de 200 hombres, 1,000 caballos y gran cantidad de maquinaria.

#### COLONOS PORTUGUESES EN NUEVA INGLATERRA.

El 27 de marzo próximo pasado, el vapor *Doña María* trajo á Nueva York el mayor número de inmigrantes portugueses que ha llegado jamás al mencionado puerto. Estos inmigrantes se trasladaron á los estados de Nueva Inglaterra, donde van á establecerse.

#### NUEVO ASTILLERO.

Dice el "Daily Call," de San Francisco, en su número correspondiente al 27 de marzo de este año, que los talleres conocidos con el nombre de Risdon Iron Works han hecho un arreglo, mediante el cual entran en posesión de los Pacific Rolling Mills, establecimiento que cubre 32 acres de tierra. Se asegura que la Risdon Iron Company va á construir un dique seco donde podrán entrar los buques de mayor calado.

#### CONTRATO DE CARBÓN.

Dice el "Public Ledger," de Filadelfia, que un sindicato inglés ha celebrado un contrato por 2,000,000 de toneladas de carbón de piedra de Alabama, que deben serle entregadas en Nueva Orleans, para ser exportadas en el término de dos años. El precio en que se convino fué de 75 centavos por tonelada, entregada en la boca de las minas, debiendo agregarse á esta cantidad 50 centavos más para gastos de transportación al mencionado puerto. El periódico atrás citado, considera esta transacción como una de las más importantes que hanse verificado en el sur de los Estados Unidos en los últimos años.

#### EXTENSIÓN DE LOS BOSQUES DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Se había calculado en 26 por ciento la extensión de los bosques de los Estados Unidos, pero los últimos cálculos hechos por la Sección de Geografía y Silvicultura de la Oficina de Estudios Geológicos la ha

elevado al 37 per ciento. Dicha oficina ha publicado un folleto que contiene informes recientes sobre los bosques del país, y prueba que en cuanto á maderas de construcción, los recursos de los Estados Unidos son mayores de lo que generalmente se cree.

#### VENTA DE BANANOS.

Por la primera vez en tres años se han vendido en pública subasta bananos de Cuba en la ciudad de Nueva York. La venta se verificó el 28 de marzo próximo pasado. La fruta no era, generalmente hablando, de buena calidad, y los precios que se pagaron, si se exceptúa la clase conocida en este país con el nombre de *red* (roja), fueron bajos. De esta última solamente se introdujeron 400 racimos. La exportación de bananos de Cuba fué prohibida en 1896 por el General WEYLER.

#### LA ISLA DE GUAM.

El Señor SEATON SCHROEDER, de la Armada de los Estados Unidos, va á ser el sucesor del Capitán LEARY, como Gobernador de la isla de Guam. Esta isla es una estación naval, y se espera que todos los transportes que vayan á Manila ó vengán de aquel puerto hagan escala allí. Servirá también la isla como estación para el proyectado cable del Pacífico, y se establecerá en ella un depósito de carbón para barcos mercantes.

#### DESCUBRIMIENTO DE UN NUEVO MINERAL.

El "New York Sun," en su número correspondiente al 25 de marzo del año en curso, dice que últimamente se ha descubierto un filón de mineral de cobre en la mina Mohawk, de Houghton, Michigan, y que al principio se creyó que era sulfuro de cobre. Parece, sin embargo, que es un mineral nuevo, que jamás había sido clasificado por los mineralogistas. El Profesor JORGE O. KOENIG, que es una autoridad reconocida en Europa y América, ha hecho, según se dice, varios experimentos con este mineral y ha declarado que es una substancia muy valiosa, compuesta de cobre, níquel y arsénico, á la cual ha llamado "Mohawkite," debido al nombre de la mina donde se descubrió.

#### LA INDUSTRIA DE LINO.

El periódico "Minneapolis Tribune" asegura que la industria de lino promete mucho en los estados del noroeste. En 1899 se dedicaron á este cultivo unos 600,000 acres en el estado de North Dakota, y la producción de linaza ascendió á cosa de 7,200,000 *bushels*. Como el precio de este artículo se alzó, los agricultores tuvieron buenas ganancias, pero prácticamente no hubo mercado para los tallos. Por recomendación de compañías de Boston y de Londres, se ha erigido en la ciudad de Fargo una fábrica para utilizar la fibra del lino en la manu-



factura de papel de escribir de fina calidad, y, si esto da buen resultado, se podrán fabricar también telas de lino de diversas clases.

#### **CORRESPONDENCIA RELATIVA AL CANAL DE PANAMÁ.**

El 21 de marzo de este año el Senado de los Estados Unidos pidió al Presidente McKINLEY que le remitiera la correspondencia entre los Estados Unidos y Colombia relativa al Canal de Panamá. Dicha correspondencia abraza desde 1879 hasta 1897, y gran parte de ella aun no ha sido publicada.

#### **PAPEL DE BAGAZO.**

Durante más de veinte años se han estado haciendo experimentos en Louisiana para la fabricación de papel del bagazo de la caña de azúcar. En la última semana de marzo próximo pasado hubo en Nueva Orleans una reunión de plantadores, en la cual el Coronel JOHN DYMOND manifestó que por primera vez se habían obtenido buenos resultados en dichos experimentos. El papel que se fabrica sirve solamente para envolver, pero se asegura que una tonelada del mismo se hace con poco más de una tonelada de bagazo.

#### **MONOGRAFÍA SOBRE LAS AVES DE PATAGONIA.**

El Profesor W. E. D. SCOTT, Conservador del Departamento de Ornitología de la Universidad de Princeton, partió para Inglaterra con el objeto de examinar la colección de aves del Museo Británico y hacer comparaciones entre éstas y las de Patagonia. El resultado de sus investigaciones saldrá á luz en una monografía, que será la primera de una serie de trabajos referentes á la expedición que dicha Universidad envió á Patagonia, y los cuales serán publicados bajo la dirección del Profesor SCOTT, como editor principal.

#### **AGRICULTORES DE MISSOURI EN MÉXICO.**

En un telegrama que publica el "Chicago Record" con fecha 18 de marzo de este año, se da la noticia de que una colonia de 400 agricultores del estado de Missouri va á establecerse en el valle del río Concho, en el estado de Chihuahua. Los promotores de la empresa de colonización han comprado, según se asegura, 200,000 acres de terrenos muy ricos.

#### **IMPRESOS EN LA EXPOSICIÓN DE PARÍS.**

El periódico "Deutsch Export Zeitung" dice que el Director-General de la Exposición de París ha resuelto que todos los impresos destinados á dicho certamen, ya contengan ilustraciones ó no, sean admitidos libres de derechos de aduana, bajo las condiciones siguientes:

1ª. Los impresos han de ser enviados al expositor ó á su representante, y no á otra persona.

2ª. Los impresos deben tratar únicamente de lo que exhiba la persona que los importa. Los catálogos y prospectos que traten de toda una sección de objetos no gozarán del mencionado privilegio.

3ª. Los impresos deben ser distribuidos gratuitamente en la Exposición.

### NOTAS MISCELÁNEAS.

En el año corriente la cosecha de limones de California va á ocupar un lugar más prominente que nunca en los mercados, porque, además de que será mayor que las anteriores, la calidad de la fruta ha mejorado. Se prestará especial atención á la manera de empacarla. Hasta hace pocos años casi todas las frutas secas que se consumían en los Estados Unidos eran importadas, pero California las produce ahora de igual calidad y quizá superiores á las extranjeras. El cultivo del limonero está todavía en su infancia, pero se cree que durante este año se establecerá sobre sólidas bases, y que todos los limones que se consumen en los Estados Unidos se producirán en la costa del Pacífico.

La barca de acero *Ancona* llegó á Boston el 29 de marzo de este año, procedente de Manila. La travesía duró ciento cincuenta días. Dicha barca trajo un cargamento de cáñamo, compuesto de 18,300 fardos, que es la cantidad más grande que jamás ha venido de las Filipinas á los Estados Unidos en un solo buque. Desde que la *Ancona* salió de Zebú el valor del cáñamo ha aumentado notablemente, pues su cargamento, que fué valorado en \$400,000 el día que se hizo á la vela, valía \$800,000 á su llegada á Boston.

La Belize "Royal Mail and Central American Steamship Company" acaba de ser organizada en Jersey City, con un capital de \$100,000. Se propone esta compañía establecer comunicación, por medio de vapores, entre los puertos de los Estados Unidos, Belize y la América Central.

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## URUGUAY.

### MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE.

Con fecha 15 de febrero de este año, el Presidente CUESTAS dirigió á la Asamblea General, al inaugurar el segundo período de la XX Legislatura, un notable mensaje, del cual se han tomado los siguientes párrafos:

\* \* \* \* \*

"Ha estado atento el Gobierno al progreso del país siempre creciente. La campaña que ensancha sus medios de riqueza y de labor ha requerido disposiciones diversas tendentes á consolidar su situación.

La industria toma un vuelo gradual en la Capital y en los centros poblados, en relación con sus elementos.

“Los ferrocarriles, el telégrafo y el teléfono, extendiéndose, llevan su poderosa acción á todos los centros donde alcanzan. Son una verdadera manifestación del progreso de la campaña pastora las exposiciones que han tenido lugar en las ciudades y pueblos de algunos departamentos. El mejoramiento de las razas, que constituye la riqueza pastoril, evidencia el bienestar y adelanto en que se encuentra la industria principal del país. El Gobierno ha coadyuvado en todo lo que le ha sido posible á fomentar esas exposiciones, que estimulan al ganadero y al introductor de ganados destinados á la reproducción, y á las cuales se han concedido todas aquellas franquicias conciliables con lo que determinan las leyes.

“La agricultura ha tomado también proporciones superiores, dignas de atención para la riqueza general. El país debe estar réconocido á la campaña por su noble esfuerzo en dedicarse á la industria y al trabajo con provecho de los intereses generales. La campaña es el primer factor de la prosperidad de la nación. El comercio y la industria en general, amparados por el orden y la paz, llevarán muy adelante el progreso de la República.

“Los datos que ofrece la estadística de aduana confirman este aserto. En 1898 y 1899 la importación se encuentra representando una suma alrededor de \$24,000,000 cada año.

“La exportación de los productos del país, que en 1898 fué de \$30,000,000, en el año 1899 subió á \$37,000,000. Estas cifras bastan por sí solas para dar la prueba más elocuente del progreso del país y de su marcha ascendente.

“Es la primera vez desde el comienzo de nuestra vida independiente que se manifiesta el trabajo nacional en forma tan admirable.

“Puede afirmarse, sin temor de incurrir en falta, que la República da la nota más alta en el progreso material de los pueblos, en relación con la densidad de su población.

#### GOBIERNO.

“De acuerdo el Poder Ejecutivo con el principio económico, según el cual la base de una conveniente distribución del impuesto inmobiliario debe buscarse en el conocimiento exacto del valor de la propiedad, dictó el decreto de 12 de octubre último, determinando la formación del Registro de la Propiedad, el que permitirá en cualquier momento apreciar y seguir todas las variaciones de la riqueza inmobiliaria.

“El empadronamiento de la propiedad ha sido confiado á una Comisión Central de ciudadanos competentes, ingenieros y funcionarios públicos, la que limitará su cometido al radio urbano y suburbano de Montevideo, quedando autorizada para nombrar las comisiones auxi-

liares y subcomisiones que reputé convenientes á la mejor realización de tan prolijo trabajo. La Comisión Central ha empezado ya su tarea con encomiable actividad, practicando los estudios preliminares y proyectos previos que es indispensable abordar antes de entrar de lleno á la ejecución de la obra.

“El Poder Ejecutivo abraza la íntima persuasión de que en un plazo relativamente corto quedará definitivamente terminado ese trabajo, de vital importancia para nuestra riqueza nacional y el porvenir económico del país.

“La formación del censo demográfico de la República es indispensable para poder ofrecer un testimonio irrecusable de nuestra vitalidad y de nuestro progreso. Por esto, el Poder Ejecutivo se apresuró á expedir el decreto de 17 de noviembre próximo pasado, disponiendo el levantamiento del censo general de la población en todo el territorio de la República, con excepción de la capital, donde se efectuará después; operación que se comete á una Comisión Directiva con el encargo de preparar, dirigir y terminar todos los trabajos indispensables para realizarla. Conforme á esa resolución, el censo será levantado el 1º de marzo próximo en todos los departamentos de campaña. El sistema que se ha adoptado para su ejecución permite que él se realice con notable rapidez y sin mayores erogaciones para el Tesoro público, pues los gastos se limitarán á sueldos de escribientes é impresiones de orden. Al disponer la formación del censo de la población de la República se ha dado cumplimiento también á un precepto constitucional olvidado desde el año 1860.

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#### CORREOS Y TELÉGRAFOS.

“La institución de Correos y Telégrafos ha merecido la más preferente atención de mi Gobierno.

\* \* \* \* \*

“La fusión de los Correos y Telégrafos nacionales, servicios análogos por su naturaleza, por su índole, por sus propósitos, servicios idénticos en una palabra, ha dado los resultados que eran de esperarse. Funcionando bajo un mismo techo, bajo una misma dirección, pueden protegerse mutuamente en el cumplimiento de su delicada misión; siendo prueba inequívoca de ello el crecimiento de sus rentas, el movimiento ascendente que ya permite en el año 1899 ver trasmitirse por sus 39 oficinas postales-telegráficas, 131,752 despachos que importan la suma de \$56,498.70, y manipularse 5,090,681 piezas de correspondencia más que en el año 1898, ó sea 37,238,356 piezas, que representan una entrada de \$240,645.25, á cuyo cómputo, además de la Oficina Central, han concurrido 18 administraciones principales establecidas en las cabezas de los Departamentos; 52 sucursales ú oficinas de segundo orden que

funcionan en los centros más importantes por su población y comercio; 650 agencias de tercer orden diseminadas en la capital y en el interior; 15 estafetas ambulantes que corren sobre nuestras vías férreas, y 6 en los vapores de la carrera al Uruguay.

“Sería casi excusado el manifestaros que la marcha económica de esta institución satisface plenamente. El movimiento general de su renta en el año 1899 ha alcanzado á \$330,956.49, con un excedente de \$19,194.41 sobre el producido de 1898. Con sus propias rentas ha cubierto mensualmente su presupuesto y ha podido efectuar muchas y variadas mejoras que se imponían para su más perfecto funcionamiento. Ha adquirido en propiedad una área de 1,384 metros 70 decímetros cuadrados en la calle Miguelete, entre las de Yaguarón y Médanos, y se han construído en él cómodos é higiénicos locales de servicio y departamentos especiales para depósito de materiales telegráficos. Como varias de sus dependencias se hallan instaladas fuera de la Casa Central, imposibilitando así la vigilancia constante que la Dirección General debe observar sobre ellas, se verá terminada en breve la construcción de un tercer cuerpo en el edificio de correos, el que permitirá centralizar sus oficinas, regularizar su funcionamiento y ahorrar las importantes sumas que se abonan mensualmente, por concepto de alquileres.

“Las líneas telegráficas, cuya extensión alcanza actualmente á 1,655 kilómetros, se encuentran en su mayoría en perfecto estado, y prontas á recibir el impulso que les ofrecerá su unión á las líneas nacionales argentinas, mediante el convenio sometido á la aprobación de V. H., y prontas también para ligarse al telégrafo nacional brasileño, á cuyo fin se han iniciado ya importantes gestiones. La hora en que veamos realizadas esas uniones no la considero lejana, pues confío en el espíritu patriótico de los señores Senadores y Diputados para contar con su concurso á una obra cuya magnitud será una página de progreso en la historia de nuestros telégrafos nacionales. Consecuente con esas ideas, se ha autorizado la construcción de algunos kilómetros de línea desde Conchillas á Martín Chico, en cuyo punto empalmará nuestro telégrafo con el nacional argentino; y, en el deseo de un perfecto funcionamiento, se ha reparado debidamente la línea que liga á la Colonia con el primero de esos puntos, y se proyecta la adquisición en Europa de 600 kilómetros de alambre de bronce, con el propósito de dedicarlo exclusivamente al servicio que espera sólo la sanción de V. H.

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#### RELACIONES EXTERIORES.

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“He creído que, en primer término, nos convenía fomentar nuestro intercambio comercial; y al efecto, después de oír la autorizada opinión de las Cámaras de Comercio y de algunos distinguidos miembros del

alto comercio, propuse á la consideración de los Gobiernos de Francia, Alemania, Inglaterra é Italia, restablecer las antiguas convenciones de comercio que habían caducado, fijándoles sólo el término de un año, dentro del cual podríamos negociar otros acuerdos de recíprocas ventajas para los respectivos Estados. De este modo se salvaba la imprevisión cometida anteriormente, de haber denunciado los tratados, sin estar preparados de antemano para una nueva negociación.

“La carencia absoluta de convenios comerciales con aquellos países nos privaba del goce y de los beneficios de la tarifa mínima, que se aplica en Europa sólo á los productos de los Estados vinculados á ella por pactos internacionales. Á este fin, pues, han respondido los convenios últimamente elevados á la consideración de Vuestra Honorabilidad, de los cuales han sido ya sancionados los de Francia y Alemania.

“Se halla á la consideración de Vuestra Honorabilidad el tratado general de arbitraje celebrado con el Gobierno Argentino, por cuyas cláusulas se establece el modo y forma de dar solución amistosa y conveniente á las cuestiones que pudieran suscitarse entre ambos países. Al celebrar ese acuerdo he creído interpretar fielmente los deseos y sentimientos de la nación, y especialmente los de Vuestra Honorabilidad, cuyo patriotismo está bien evidenciado. El referido convenio nos permite incorporar á nuestro derecho internacional positivo el principio del arbitraje, que es una de las conquistas más preciadas de nuestro siglo, y la última palabra de la diplomacia moderna para evitar los desastres de la guerra.

“Hemos negociado también con el mismo Gobierno un convenio sobre importación y exportación de ganado entre ésta y aquella República, con el propósito de garantizar el buen estado sanitario de este artículo de comercio.

“Esa negociación era urgentemente reclamada por nuestros ganaderos y exportadores, á quienes debíamos atender, sin perjuicio de las medidas de carácter administrativo y reglamentario que convenía adoptar para impedir la introducción de ganados atacados de enfermedades contagiosas ó sospechosos de estarlo. El convenio de la referencia concilia todos los intereses, estableciendo el procedimiento que debe adoptarse para la introducción del ganado, sin perjuicio alguno para ambos países, igualmente interesados en el desarrollo de ese ramo tan importante del comercio internacional.

“Se halla á la consideración de Vuestra Honorabilidad el convenio telegráfico celebrado entre nuestra Administración de Correos y Telégrafos y la Argentina, con el loable propósito de establecer un servicio telegráfico completo con aquel país, el Paraguay y Bolivia, en condiciones muy ventajosas para el público, sin recargo alguno, conviniéndose además las tarifas internacionales que han de aplicarse á los telegramas procedentes del exterior ó á él dirigidos.

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“Fueron ya enviados á los Estados Unidos, para ser depositados en el Ministerio de Estado de aquel país, los instrumentos de ratificación por parte de la República de los convenios celebrados en el Congreso Postal de Wáshington, en el cual se adoptaron todas las modificaciones y mejoras que la experiencia y la práctica habían aconsejado, después de los Congresos de Lisboa y Viena que se ocuparon anteriormente de esta materia.

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#### OBRAS PÚBLICAS.

“De acuerdo con las leyes de 7 de noviembre último que aprobaron el proyecto definitivo para la ejecución de las obras del puerto en la bahía de Montevideo, formulado por el señor ingeniero Don ADOLFO GUÉRARD, sobre las bases del anteproyecto KÜMMER-GUÉRARD, pero limitando la contratación á lo que se reputa indispensable por el momento, el Poder Ejecutivo se dirigió con fecha 16 del mismo mes al referido ingeniero GUÉRARD, encomendándole la confección de los planos definitivos que han de servir para contratar dichas obras: estos planos, así como el respectivo pliego de condiciones, podrán hallarse prontos para fines del mes de marzo. Fueron enviadas también al mismo ingeniero las observaciones formuladas por el Departamento Nacional de Ingenieros sobre ubicación definitiva de algunas de las obras, para que quiera tomarlas en cuenta, si con arreglo á su criterio son de positiva utilidad para la mejor economía del proyecto.

“Habiendo quedado autorizado el Poder Ejecutivo para contratar dentro de la suma de 12½ millones de pesos oro la construcción de las obras, llamando á licitación entre firmas de primer orden que hayan realizado empresas de importancia de análoga naturaleza, el Gobierno, participando del deseo general que anima á toda la población de la República de que se acelere la ejecución de este magno problema, creyó conveniente hacer uso inmediato de la facultad conferida, sin aguardar el envío á Montevideo de los planos definitivos encomendados al Señor GUÉRARD.

“Con tal propósito, dispuso ante todo la traducción é impresión, en los idiomas francés, inglés, alemán é italiano, de las leyes promulgadas el 7 de noviembre para el mejor conocimiento de ellas.

“Formuló, previos informes, una nómina de las principales casas constructoras de Inglaterra, Francia, Alemania, Estados Unidos, Bélgica, Italia y Holanda, formando un total de veintiseis casas, á las que á fines de diciembre se enviaron todos los antecedentes, planos, leyes y documentos varios, para el debido estudio del asunto, y se les dirigió una extensa nota explicativa interesando especialmente la atención de cada una de ellas, á fin de que formulen propuestas al respecto, fijándose la fecha del 31 de julio del corriente año como término máximo para la presentación de las mismas.

“Se ha dicho á las casas constructoras que, como la construcción y ubicación de las obras que se proyecta ejecutar por ahora, están determinadas en los planos y memorias que se les ha enviado, pueden desde ya emprender los estudios sobre esa base para formular los lineamientos generales de sus propuestas, complementándolos tan luego se hallen en poder de las mismas los planos definitivos encomendados en 16 de noviembre al Señor GUÉRARD. Procediendo en esta forma, el Poder Ejecutivo ha adelantado trabajo y ganado tiempo, pudiéndose así tal vez comenzarse la construcción del puerto en el transcurso del corriente año.

“Entre los antecedentes que se enviaron, figura un cuadro de nuestro comercio exterior, por el que se demuestra cuál es el monto probable de la renta ajustada á la construcción de las obras, que se calcula en un millón cien mil pesos oro por año; cantidad importantísima en la que puede hacerse reposar sin temores, cualquiera combinación financiera.

“Este dato, las amplias garantías que se acuerdan por las leyes y la seriedad é importancia de los estudios que se han practicado, son factores esenciales que permiten abrigar la esperanza de que por fin la obra del puerto de Montevideo será extraída de la región de las grandes aspiraciones nacionales, para convertirse en un centro de hechos fecundos para la República.

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“Aparte de las magnas cuestiones de puerto y vialidad, que se tratan en capítulos separados, y á las que el Gobierno consagra la más preferente atención, por la vitalidad que entrañan para la República, el Poder Ejecutivo se ocupará asimismo de poner en buen camino las siguientes, que son también de innegable importancia y seriamente reclamadas:

“1°. Prolongación del Ferrocarril del Nordeste, detenido hoy en Nico Pérez, y que es urgente llevar por lo menos á Melo.

“2°. Comunicación rápida y económica entre la Capital y los departamentos del Este, sea por medio de la prolongación del Ferrocarril Uruguayo del Este, detenido en la Sierra, ó por el establecimiento de una línea regular de vapores-correos, en combinación con tranvías rurales de vapor, que arranquen de los puertos de Maldonado y La Paloma.

“3°. Terminación de las obras en al paso de Almirón, ya muy adelantadas, que trasformarán á Paysandú en puerto de ultramar.

“4°. Conservación y mejora de los obras ya realizadas en el Río Negro y en el Arroyo de las Vacas.

“5°. Construcción del palacio de Gobierno.

“6°. Construcción de edificios escolares en la Capital y en los departamentos del interior, hallándose ya en trámite una propuesta ventajosa y debidamente garantida.



## FERROCARRILES.

“Al inaugurarse el Gobierno Constitucional, el Estado había cumplido ya por su parte, casi todas las obligaciones que le incumbían como contratante con la empresa entonces denominada de los Ferrocarriles del Oeste, al tenor de las estipulaciones contenidas en el contrato de fecha 30 de mayo de 1896.

“Por ese contrato la Empresa tomaba á su cargo la construcción de un sistema de ferrocarriles, cuya arteria principal parte de la ciudad de San José y termina en la de Mercedes, con un ramal al puerto del Sauce, pasando por el Rosario, y otro á la Colonia; y la construcción del puerto del Sauce con capacidad para un movimiento de 500,000 toneladas, susceptible de ser aumentado á un millón, para buques de 18 á 20 pies de calado, que operarían á plancha, y con los depósitos, útiles y enseres necesarios.

“Cada sección de ferrocarril, con todo su tren rodante, vías, estaciones, galpones, talleres y demás anexos, retrovertirá al Estado á los sesenta años de entregada al tráfico público.

“Por su parte, el Estado debía contribuir con £600,000 nominales, en títulos de la deuda consolidada, depositados en la casa de GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE Y Ca., de Londres, con el exclusivo objeto de practicar los arreglos de los Ferrocarriles del Oeste (art. 1° del Convenio de 26 de agosto de 1891), y con todos los materiales, terrenos, muebles, y demás que la Compañía Uruguay Limitada entregará al Estado, según el arreglo que con ella celebró en Londres el día 2 de diciembre de 1895, en las mismas condiciones en que el Gobierno debe recibirse de todo ello según el referido arreglo.

“Á partir del 28 de febrero de 1897 empiezan las entregas de dinero á la empresa en calidad de á cuenta, mediante certificados provisorios que expide el ingeniero fiscal, en consideración á trabajos hechos, materiales adquiridos, fletes pagados y demás elementos acumulados por la Empresa. El Gobierno provisional autorizó el último certificado provisorio, con fecha 3 de diciembre de 1898, por el saldo de la subvención, después de cumplida la condición impuesta á la empresa de poner en comunicación, con trenes de servicio provisorio, la ciudad de San José con el puerto del Sauce.

“Así mismo fueron entregados en tiempo oportuno á la empresa, los planos, materiales, muebles, útiles y demás enseres existentes en los depósitos de Londres, Montevideo y la Colonia, de todo lo cual ella se recibió con solemnidades de inventario é interviniendo los Ingenieros fiscales, después de declararse oficialmente que el Gobierno descartaba las diferencias en más y en menos, por juzgarlas suficientemente compensadas.

“También le fué escriturado á la empresa el terreno de 9,952.45 metros cuadrados, equivalentes á 13,000 varas, sito en la Colonia, con

los muelles, edificios y demás construcciones existentes, el cual terreno había adquirido el fisco á mérito del convenio de 2 de diciembre de 1895, aprobado por ley fecha 26 de mayo de 1896.

“Como es de notar, el Estado ha cumplido con un espíritu de equidad, rayano en la protección, las obligaciones que le impuso aquel contrato, proporcionando á la Empresa todos esos elementos y recursos en momentos críticos para ella, que, á haberse prolongado, hubieran traído seguramente el aniquilamiento de su entidad comercial.

“Pero mediaba la circunstancia obligante de que el período de iniciación de los trabajos habia transcurrido en medio de los trastornos de la guerra civil; y como era necesario, por otra parte, poner término, una vez por todas, á la ya trabajada cuestión del Ferrocarril de la Colonia, y llevarlo á las comarcas del oeste de la República, el Gobierno adoptó el arbitrio de socorrer á la empresa con certificados á cuenta, consiguiendo, de tal suerte, mantenerla en pie para facilitarle el modo de construir y terminar la línea de San José al Sauce, acontecimiento que, como es notorio, vino á hacer posible la transferencia de que se hablará más adelante.

“Sucesivamente, á medida que las necesidades del tráfico de productos lo exigían, el Gobierno ha ido habilitando provisoriamente aquella parte de vía férrea que, en el sentir de los técnicos, reunía condiciones de seguridad suficientes para el transporte de cargas.

“Primeramente, en enero de 1898, se autorizó, bajo la responsabilidad de la empresa y corriendo ésta con todos los riesgos, el tráfico provisorio de cereales entre la Villa del Rosario y el puerto del Sauce, promulgándose entonces una tarifa provisoria que comprendía los gastos de transporte por la vía, y de muellaje y embarque por el puerto.

“Este permiso vino á cooperar al movimiento de parte de la cosecha de la agricultura de los departamentos del Oeste.

“Un año después, el 13 de enero de 1899, se dió igualmente autorización para utilizar en el transporte de cargas la vía férrea construída entre el Sauce, Rosario y San José, visto el estado regular de los trabajos ya bastante adelantados, y se aprobó también como provisoria otra tarifa de carga, la que se reservaba modificar el Gobierno cuando lo entendiése conveniente, imponiendo así mismo á la empresa la regularización de ciertos detalles técnicos de importancia, que se señalaban en los informes de los ingenieros informantes.

“Más tarde, el 17 de noviembre de 1899, en consideración á las ventajas que reportaría la defectuosa vialidad de aquellos parajes, mediante un servicio ferroviario para pasajeros y carga, fué habilitada, en calidad de provisoria, la línea de San José al Sauce, quedando obligada la Empresa, bajo responsabilidad, y con todos los riesgos á su cargo, á completar los trabajos del proyecto definitivo, siguiendo las indicaciones que habían formulado las Oficinas Técnicas.

“De acuerdo con las estipulaciones del contrato originario de 30 de

mayo de 1896, el Gobierno autorizó, con fecha 10 de agosto 1899, la transferencia de la concesión de la vía férrea del Oeste á la compañía "The Central Uruguay Western Railway, Limited," constituida en Londres con ese especial objeto, cuyos estatutos habían sido sometidos á la aprobación del Poder Ejecutivo, conforme á la cláusula 8ª del referido contrato de concesión.

"En uso de esa autorización, se labró en Londres, el 25 de agosto del año expresado, la respectiva escritura de cesión y transferencia, y en conocimiento de sus términos, el Gobierno aprobó ese acto con fecha 10 de Noviembre próximo pasado, quedando obligado el cesionario á prestar todas las obligaciones, responsabilidades, seguridades y garantías contraídas por el cedente, según las leyes que rigen la concesión y la integran necesariamente, á saber: la de 6 de octubre de 1897 y la de 12 de octubre de 1899.

"Dada la importancia de la firma comercial que se ha hecho cargo de la Empresa, y las garantías efectivas sobre que reposa el contrato, el Gobierno abriga al presente la seguridad de que en el plazo legal será un hecho positivo el Ferrocarril del Oeste, que pondrá á Montevideo en contacto con el Rosario, Sauce, Colonia y Mercedes, vinculando estrechamente poblaciones importantes que vivían hasta ahora casi aisladas, en un medio feraz de producción agrícola y ganadera.

"Para el mes de julio de 1901 habrá llegado el ferrocarril á la Colonia y llegará á Mercedes en febrero de 1902. Estas fechas se calculan conforme á la prórroga de veintiocho meses que otorgó la ley de fecha 12 de octubre de 1899.

"La compañía cedente denominada The Uruguay Western Railway and Port Company, Limited, se ha reservado la construcción y explotación del puerto del Sauce, negocio que queda ahora independiente del de construcción y explotación de la línea del Oeste, que es lo único cedido á la Compañía Ferrocarril Central Extensión Oeste, sin que esta modificación del negociado primitivo venga á afectar las responsabilidades y garantías establecidas por el contrato fecha 30 de mayo de 1896 y la ley fecha 6 de octubre de 1897, para la efectividad, realización y goce de las concesiones de que allí se trata.

"Desde el mes de febrero de 1898, fecha en que se autorizó el tráfico provisorio, el puerto del Sauce ha tenido hasta fines de 1899 un movimiento de 20,557 toneladas de carga efectiva, representada por cueros lanares, lana, trigo, animales en pie, queso, alfalfa, harina, papel, arena, piedra labrada y bruta, materiales de ferrocarril, etc.

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

"Hé aquí algunos datos del movimiento ferrocarrilero correspondiente al ejercicio económico 1898-99:

	Kilómetros.
La extensión total de los ferrocarriles en explotación es de .....	1, 604. 832
La de los ferrocarriles en construcción y algunos en estudio y proyecto es de ..	1, 909. 143
Total.....	3, 513. 975

“Entre estos últimos figuran los Ferrocarriles del Oeste, con una extensión de 300 kilómetros, de los cuales 104 han sido habilitados provisionalmente.

	Kilómetros.
Del total de las líneas en explotación gozan de la garantía del Estado....	1, 149. 708
Se explotan sin garantía .....	455. 123
Total.....	1, 604. 831

“El capital invertido hasta la fecha en los 1,604.832 kilómetros de vía en explotación asciende á \$46,817,972.70, ó sea en término medio por 1 kilómetro de vía \$29,173.13.

“El capital que representan las líneas garantidas, á razón de pesos 23,500 por kilómetro, asciende á \$27,018,160.09.

“Los productos brutos de la explotación ascendieron en el ejercicio 1898-99 á \$2,401,823.60.

“El número total de pasajeros trasportados ha sido de 992,243, con un recorrido de kilómetros 27,887.116.

“El tráfico de la carga está representado por 580,234 toneladas, con un recorrido, en kilómetros, de 78,074.788.

“El aumento que se observa en dicho tráfico, con relación á los años 1896-97 y 1897-98, es de 21.48 y 6.57 por ciento, respectivamente.

“Se ha invertido en gastos de explotación la suma de pesos 1,486,605.39, representados como sigue:

Líneas garantidas .....	\$720, 452. 70
Líneas no garantidas .....	766, 152. 69
	<u>\$1, 486, 605. 39</u>

El monto de la ganancia líquida obtenida de la explotación de las líneas alcanza á ..... 946, 409. 92  
Comprendiendo en su totalidad al Ferrocarril Central,

como sigue:

Secciones garantidas.....	\$267, 122. 86
Secciones no garantidas.....	679, 287. 06
	<u>946, 409. 92</u>

El monto de interés que hay que servir anualmente por concepto de garantías es de ..... \$945, 635. 59  
La cantidad líquida y abonada en las fechas fijadas por la ley ..... 817, 397. 13

Utilidad obtenida por el Estado..... 128, 238. 46

“Esta utilidad se deriva de la explotación de las siguientes líneas:

Extensión al Este del Ferrocarril Central (línea á Nico Pérez) .....	\$97, 699. 13
Ramal Nordeste (línea á Minas) .....	30, 539. 33
	<u>128, 238. 46</u>

“En los años 1896-97 y 1897-98 esta utilidad alcanzó solamente á \$41,523.81 y \$91.312.75 respectivamente.

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## INSTRUCCIÓN PÚBLICA.

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“El movimiento escolar sigue avanzando lentamente.

“Debo hacer constar, como dato satisfactorio, que en el año transcurrido funcionaron 563 escuelas públicas en la República, lo que arroja un aumento de veinte escuelas sobre el año 1898.

“La inscripción de alumnos alcanzó á 51,633, cifra que revela un exceso de 1,900 inscriptos sobre el año anterior. Más satisfactorio es el dato relativo á la asistencia media de alumnos. Ella ha sido de 37,685 alumnos en el año 1899, número que señala un aumento de 3,040 alumnos de asistencia media sobre el año 1898.

“Siendo el aumento de la asistencia media casi el doble del incremento de la inscripción, debe concluirse que el hábito de la asistencia á la escuela va extendiéndose cada vez más, indudablemente porque la escuela pública mejora lenta pero sólidamente.

“El número de maestros ha sido de 1,104, lo que significa que han funcionado tan sólo 35 maestros más que en el año 1898. La instrucción privada no ha señalado progresos dignos de mencionarse.

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## GANADERÍA Y AGRICULTURA.

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## IMPORTACIÓN Y EXPORTACIÓN DE GANADO.

“Preocupándose el Gobierno del fomento de nuestra principal industria, la ganadería, sometió á V. H. en 5 de mayo de 1899 un proyecto de ley reglamentando la importación y exportación del ganado en pie, cuya redacción había encomendado á la Asociación Rural del Uruguay.

“Esta forma de explotación interesa al país bajo dos aspectos fundamentales, que no ha descuidado el proyecto, uno relacionado con el comercio y reproducción de los ganados, y otro con la policía sanitaria, en cuanto las enfermedades de los animales puedan perjudicar á la salud y á la alimentación del hombre.

“También fué sometida á la consideración de V. H., con fecha 6 de noviembre de 1899, el Convenio internacional, negociado y firmado en Buenos Aires el 26 de octubre del mismo año, sobre importación y exportación de ganado entre esta República y la Argentina, con el propósito de garantizar su buen estado sanitario.

“Por ese Convenio, que aun pende de la sanción de V. H., se habilitan puertos en uno y otro país, se establecen la previa inspección veterinaria, el certificado de buena salud del país de la procedencia del ganado, con las formalidades consiguientes, la prohibición de entrada para los animales atacados de enfermedades contagiosas ó sospechosas, el rechazo de los que procedan de ultramar, y, en una palabra, se prescriben todas aquellas medidas que son conducentes á la efectividad de

estas disposiciones protectoras de la salud pública, y que concurren á garantizar la indemnidad del ganado.

“Entre tanto, la ausencia de legislación positiva á este respecto, cuya importancia demuestra por sí sola la enumeración precedente, colocaba al Gobierno en la necesidad forzosa é imprescindible de no dejar en el abandono tantos intereses públicos, comprometidos en presencia de la introducción que á diario se hacía de animales reproductores, atacados de enfermedades infecto-contagiosas, como la tuberculosis en el ganado vacuno, que es trasmisible por contagio á la especie humana, como es sabido; y fué entonces que el Gobierno, dominando la necesidad y en uso de sus facultades privativas, promulgó el decreto de fecha 21 de octubre de 1899, prohibiendo por las fronteras del territorio la introducción de animales enfermos y sospechosos de estarlo, y declarando á Montevideo único puerto habilitado para la recepción de reproductores de las especies equina, bovina, ovina, caprina y porcina, procedentes de países limítrofes y también para la recepción de todo animal procedente de otro país, al efecto de ser sometidos á una inspección sanitaria.

“Mientras no se organice un servicio completo de inspección veterinaria, dotado de todos los elementos necesarios para una profilaxis y curación eficaz, ha quedado al cuidado de la Junta E. Administrativa de la Capital la designación de un punto único de desembarque y lazareto, lo mismo que el servicio de inspección sanitaria.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### PRODUCCIÓN.

“Los precios alcanzados por las lanas, en la zafra que termina, son extraordinarios, nunca vistos. Ha sido un año especial debido á causas extraordinarias también.

“La producción del trigo, contrariada en los momentos de la siembra por el exceso de lluvias y por una gran sequía en los de recogida, presenta un aspecto variado de cosechas regulares en algunos Departamentos, y de cosechas buenos en otros, formando un término medio que sobrepasará al total de lo cosechado en el año anterior, por la mayor extensión de tierras cultivadas.

“La exportación de este grano, así como la de las harinas, se ha mantenido floja este año, porque no actuaron las necesidades imprevisas en el exterior, que obligaron la gran demanda del año pasado.

“El maíz se ha mantenido á bajo precio, y la producción hubiera sido abundante en la presente estación, por haber aumentado la suma de terreno para su cultivo, á no haberse prolongado de una manera excesiva la sequía, que amenaza un resultado negativo para la cosecha de este cereal. Á pesar de esto, puede decirse que, en general, los precios de los cereales, si bien no son elevados, son remuneradores, circunstancia ésta que alienta en sus tareas á los labradores.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MINAS.

“Las únicas minas que se explotan en el país son las de oro del Departamento de Rivera.

“La explotación de esas minas, después de haber atravesado una violenta crisis, como lo demuestra el cuadro del último quinquenio que se inserta más adelante, tiende á reaccionar, debido á los laudables esfuerzos de la compañía Établissements Français de l'Uruguay, la que ha adquirido varias de las más importantes minas de la región aurífera de Corrales y Cuñapirú.

“Esta compañía se propone actualmente unir todas esas minas por una vía férrea con la Usina Central y aprovechar así para la tracción y elaboración de los minerales los 360 caballos de fuerza que le proporcionan las seis turbinas establecidas en la margen izquierda del Cuñapirú.

“Para el completo desarrollo de ese plan, que sin duda alguna ha de transformar aquella región minera, la empresa ha iniciado ante el Poder Ejecutivo un expediente sobre exoneración de derechos de aduana para la introducción de ciertos materiales, el que se halla actualmente á estudio del Ministerio del ramo.

“Indudablemente, las minas de oro del país no son ricas, pero contienen diseminada mucha cantidad de oro, que en parte puede ser aprovechado, mediante una juiciosa explotación y el empleo de procedimientos metalúrgicos perfeccionados que la experiencia de otros países pone á contribución.

“Hé aquí la producción en los últimos cinco años á que anteriormente he hecho referencia:

Año.	Mineral beneficiado.		Producto en oro.		Gramos por tonelada.		Valor tonelada mineral.	Producto de la venta del oro.
	Toneladas.	Kilogramos.	Kilogramos.	Gramos.	Gramos.	Miligramos.	Pesos.	Pesos.
1894 .....	3, 641	500	34	511	9	476	4. 21	15, 342. 39
1895 .....	7, 834	-----	61	126	7	803	3. 45	27, 041. 32
1896 .....	4, 192	700	55	998	13	356	5. 96	25, 002. 72
1897 .....	6, 400	791	87	336	13	645	6. 02	38, 505. 71
1898 .....	5, 235	520	74	708	14	269	6. 35	33, 245. 55

“El dato más importante que de este cuadro se desprende es el aumento de la riqueza del mineral beneficiado.

“En el año 1895 cada tonelada de mineral solo contenía oro por valor de \$3.45, mientras que en los años 1897 y 1898 el oro contenido en cada tonelada de mineral valía \$6.02 y \$6.35.

“En los años anteriores en que la producción fué mayor, se beneficiaron cuarzos que solo contenían \$2.25 de oro por tonelada.

## HACIENDA.

\* \* \* \* \*

“El 28 de marzo el Poder Ejecutivo se dirigió á V. H. dándole cuenta de la situación del tesoro público, con el objeto de proponer la

adopción de medidas tendentes á garantir el estricto cumplimiento de todas las obligaciones que pesan sobre el Estado, una vez que habían quedado organizados constitucionalmente los poderes públicos.

“Para el efecto, sometió el Poder Ejecutivo á vuestra consideración un proyecto de ley, por el cual se le autorizaba para la emisión de una tercera serie de títulos del empréstito Extraordinario. La Honorable Asamblea General tuvo á bien conceder esta autorización por \$1,400,000 de los expresados títulos; cuya ley fué promulgada con fecha 22 de mayo y cumplida satisfactoriamente por medio de una negociación con el Banco de la República Oriental del Uruguay. El producto de los expresados títulos sólo alcanzó á solventar el saldo que quedó, adeudando á dicho Banco la administración del Señor IDIARTE BORDA.

“Dando cumplimiento al artículo 82 de la Carta Fundamental de la República, el Poder Ejecutivo sometió á la consideración de V. H. el presupuesto general de gastos, que debió regir en el presente año económico, equilibrando del modo más estricto los egresos con los ingresos, suprimiendo erogaciones que el Poder Ejecutivo creyó de todo punto innecesarias unas, y tendentes otras á ajustar los gastos al sano principio económico de concluir con los déficits en contra de la nación que venían recargando las deudas que pesan sobre su crédito.

“El mencionado presupuesto está pendiente de vuestra sanción, habiéndose discutido ya en una de las dos Cámaras del Honorable Cuerpo Legislativo.

“El Poder Ejecutivo dispuso, con fecha 15 de julio, que el Banco de la República Oriental del Uruguay acreditase á la cuenta especial que tiene con el Estado la suma de £10,668.83—saldo sobrante de la liquidación del último semestre del empréstito Uruguayo de 5 por ciento de 1896—cuya cantidad le fué pasada por la casa bancaria GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE Y Cia., de Londres.

“Consultando el mejor servicio público, el Poder Ejecutivo expidió el decreto de 25 de julio que centraliza, en la sección Depósitos Judiciales de la Oficina de Crédito Público, la administración de los embargos é interdicciones que pesan sobre los sueldos civiles y militares á cargo de la nación.

El 16 de agosto se promulgó la ley relativa á la liquidación definitiva del Banco Nacional, y en su cumplimiento el Poder Ejecutivo autorizó á la Comisión Liquidadora del mismo para realizar en la Bolsa de Comercio los títulos de la deuda de liquidación que fueren necesarios para atender el pago de los créditos que se reclamaren, debiendo dar cuenta en cada caso de la cantidad de títulos que se enagenen.

Con el objeto de perseguir la más estricta percepción de la renta pública, por decreto de 6 de setiembre el Poder Ejecutivo amplió las disposiciones reglamentarias que regían para el cobro del impuesto interno de consumo á los cigarros, cigarillos y tabacos.

“A fin de dar mayor ampliación y desarrollo á la navegación fluvial,



y de acuerdo con lo informado por la Dirección General de Aduanas y dictamen fiscal, el Poder Ejecutivo accedió al petitorio de la Cámara Nacional de Comercio para que la aduana permita en cualquier tiempo á los buques á vela, que hacen operaciones en los puertos nacionales, sean despachados mediante la garantía de los agentes marítimos que así lo soliciten.

“Velando por la mejor administración de los intereses públicos, el Poder Ejecutivo estableció por decreto de 2 de octubre una nueva organización en la Dirección General de Impuestos Directos, basada en la división del trabajo, deslindando las obligaciones y responsabilidades de los empleados superiores y subalternos; y aplicando á la vez el principio de la fianza caucionada á los recaudadores de fondos del Tesoro.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Conforme á las reglas administrativas que el Poder Ejecutivo se ha impuesto, por decreto de 12 de octubre se dispuso la revisión general de la contribución inmobiliaria del interior de la República, por la policía de cada Departamento, debiendo, para el efecto, formularse y remitirse á cada comisario una relación circunstanciada de los contribuyentes de sus respectivas jurisdicciones.

“Estando en descubierto un crédito contra el Estado por \$14,539.33, centésimos procedentes del contrato que con la casa LUTHER DE BRANSCHREIZ se celebró el 30 de abril de 1895, relativo á los estudios del puerto de Montevideo, autorizados por la ley de 14 de julio de 1894, el Poder Ejecutivo se dirigió á V. H. con fecha 17 de octubre, para recabar la autorización correspondiente, á objeto de solventar esta deuda. Dicha autorización fué concedida por V. H.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Con el propósito de estimular las iniciativas de los elementos productores del país en las industrias agro-pecuarias, que son su riqueza, el Poder Ejecutivo se dirigió á V. H. pidiéndole la aprobación del proyecto de ley exonerando de derechos de aduana á los materiales que se introdujesen, destinados á las instalaciones de la Exposición-feria que tuvo lugar en Paysandú, lo que V. H. tuvo á bien concederle ámpliamente.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Por decreto de 4 de noviembre, el Poder Ejecutivo amplió las disposiciones reglamentarias del tránsito de los tabacos cosechados en el país; cometiéndose la expedición de guías policiales para ese producto exclusivamente á los jefes políticos departamentales, encargando á la vez al Departamento de Agricultura la comprobación de las cosechas y verificación de la cantidad de tabacos cosechados en las distintas zonas donde se cultiva.”

## BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

En esta sección del Boletín Mensual se tratará de los libros y folletos enviados á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que se refieren á asuntos relacionados con los países de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

El canje de publicaciones de Centro y Sud América puede efectuarse por conducto de la "Smithsonian Institution," Wáshington, D. C., por medio de las agencias de distribución que tiene en aquellos países, y que son las siguientes:

Argentina: Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires.

Boliva: Oficina Nacional de Inmigración, Estadística y Propaganda Geográfica, La Paz.

Chile: Universidad de Chile, Santiago.

Colombia: Biblioteca Nacional, Bogotá.

Costa Rica: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, San José.

El Salvador: Museo Nacional, San Salvador.

Guatemala: Instituto Nacional de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Honduras: Biblioteca Nacional, Tegucigalpa.

México: Todos los envíos gozan de la franquicia del correo.

Nicaragua: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Managua.

Paraguay: Oficina General de Informaciones y Canje y Comisaria General de Inmigración, Asunción.

Perú: Biblioteca Nacional, Lima.

Uruguay: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, Montevideo.

Venezuela: Museo Nacional, Caracas.

Con el título de "Ensayo acerca de una Mapoteca Chilena," el Señor Don J. I. MEDINA ha publicado un volumen que, según él mismo dice, es una colección de los títulos de los mapas, planos y vistas relativos á Chile, arreglados cronológicamente. La obra está precedida de una introducción en que se da sucintamente noticia de las exploraciones hechas en Chile y con especialidad de aquellas llevadas á cabo con el objeto de estudiar su topografía. Dedicó el autor particular atención á las exploraciones realizadas en la época colonial, que son de las menos conocidas y que tienen, por lo mismo, gran valor histórico. Contiene también la referida introducción una reseña de la historia cartográfica de Chile, que es un trabajo muy interesante, en el que abundan curiosos datos históricos.

Sigue á la introducción una lista ó catálogo de los mapas, planos y vistas referentes á Chile, y bien se comprende que para formar tan extensa colección el autor ha tenido que consagrarse á este trabajo

con asiduidad. La obra del Señor MEDINA es una importante adición á cuanto se ha escrito sobre la geografía de Chile.

En la reunión anual de la Asociación Nacional de Educación el Dr. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER leyó un trabajo sobre la enseñanza en los Estados Unidos, el cual contiene datos interesantes. Dice que la instrucción pública en este país está á cargo de los estados y que la cantidad que en ella se gasta es enorme, pues solamente las escuelas públicas cuestan anualmente \$200,000,000, ó sea, calculando según la población, \$2.67 por cabeza. En la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda se gastan al año en la instrucción pública más de \$88,000,000; en Francia como \$58,000,000, y en Alemania más de \$108,000,000. Se ve, pues, agrega el Dr. BUTLER, que estas cuatro grandes naciones gastan anualmente en la instrucción pública más de \$450,000,000. Los Estados Unidos gastan cada año en sus escuelas públicas más que la Gran Bretaña, Francia y Alemania juntas en sus poderosas armadas. La cantidad que dichas escuelas cuestan casi se ha triplicado de 1870 á esta fecha.

La revista "Gunton's Magazine," correspondiente al mes de marzo de este año, publica un artículo del Honorable CARROLL D. WRIGHT, Director del Departamento del Trabajo, que lleva este título: "El Trabajo Manual y el de Máquina." El escritor dice que el número de caballos de vapor que necesitaron en 1890 todas las fábricas de los Estados Unidos fué de 6,000,000, lo cual equivale al trabajo de 30,000,000 de hombres. Con todo, hubo solamente empleadas 4,476,884 personas. Agrega el Señor WRIGHT que 30,000,000 de operarios representan una población de 180,000,000 de habitantes, ó en otras palabras, que para obtener los productos de las manufacturas de los Estados Unidos en 1890 por medio del trabajo manual se habría necesitado la citada población y que ninguno de los habitantes se dedicara á la agricultura, el comercio, etc.

El periódico "Engineering and Mining Journal," de Nueva York, publicó, en su número de 7 del corriente, un artículo sobre la producción de cobre en el mundo, que, según los cuadros estadísticos que contiene, fué en 1899 de 473,818 toneladas, contra 434,329 toneladas en 1898. El aumento más importante, fuera de los Estados Unidos, se verificó en México. La producción en las repúblicas latino-americanas fué como sigue: República Argentina, 65 toneladas en 1899, Brasil, 2,500 toneladas, ó sea un aumento de 2,050; Chile, 25,000 toneladas; México, 19,335 toneladas; el Perú, 5,165 toneladas. La producción total del mundo en 1899, comparada con la de 1898, muestra un aumento de cerca de 10 por ciento.

El "Engineer," de Londres, publica, en su número de 23 de febrero de este año, un artículo sobre la producción de carbón en los Estados

Unidos, en el cual dice que la cantidad producida el año pasado se calcula en 244,581,275 toneladas de 2,000 libras cada una. Esto equivale á 218,376,000 toneladas de 2,240 libras, que es la tonelada que sirve de base á los cálculos de la producción en Inglaterra. Agrega el mismo periódico que la escasez de carbón en Europa ha dado por resultado que este artículo se introduzca de América, cosa que solamente se había visto antes en épocas extraordinarias, como cuando ocurrían huelgas.

Un escrito que fué presentado al Instituto de Ingenieros de Minas durante la sesión que se verificó en San Francisco en septiembre de 1899, ha sido publicado en forma de folleto. La materia sobre que versa esta publicación, á saber: los depósitos de manganeso en Bahía y Minas, Brasil, ha sido tratado varias veces en el BOLETÍN MENSUAL. El autor de dicho folleto es el Profesor JOHN C. BRANNER, de la Universidad Leland Stanford Junior.

“The stone reef at the mouth of Río Grande do Norte, Brazil” (El arrecife en la boca del Río Grande del Norte) es el título de un folleto que acaba de publicarse, y que es obra de los Señores J. C. BRANNER y C. E. GILMAN. El asunto de que se ocupa había sido tratado ya en el periódico “The American Geologist,” correspondiente al mes de diciembre de 1899.

El “International Monthly,” correspondiente al mes en curso, contiene un artículo sobre la neutralidad del canal de Nicaragua, obra de Mr. JOHN R. PROCTER, presidente de la comisión denominada del Servicio Civil de los Estados Unidos. Mr. PROCTER trata el asunto bajo tres diferentes aspectos, á saber: el diplomático, el comercial y el militar.

Los “Berichte über Handel und Industrie” (Los informes del comercio y la industria), correspondientes al 21 de marzo de 1900, trabajo que publica en Berlin el Ministerio de lo Interior, contienen un largo artículo sobre la producción de algodón en todo el mundo. Dicho artículo trata de cada país en particular y da los últimos datos estadísticos.

El Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Filadelfia, correspondiente al mes de marzo de este año (Vol. II, No. 3), contiene un artículo sobre el canal de Nicaragua, escrito por el Señor ANGELO HEILPRIN, F. R. G. S., ex-Presidente de la Sociedad Geográfica y profesor de geología en la Academia de Ciencias Naturales de Filadelfia.

El periódico “Current History,” en su número correspondiente al mes de marzo de este año, contiene muchas ilustraciones de especial interés para todas las personas que se dedican al estudio de los últimos acontecimientos en los Estados Unidos, Sud América y el África meridional.

# BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

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VOL. VIII.

ABRIL DE 1900.

No. 4.

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## PRODUÇÃO DE ASSUCAR DE CANNA E DE BETER- RABA.

Segundo dados estatísticos fidedignos, a produção universal de assucar nos ultimos 60 annos foi transferida das plantações do tropico para as da zona temperada. Isto é demonstrado pelas estatisticas publicadas ultimamente pela Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria do Thesouro dos Estados Unidos. Estas estatisticas mostram que em 1840, 95 por cento da produção total de assucar provieram da canna de assucar dos tropicos, e 5 por cento foi extrahido da beterraba, que é um producto da zona temperada, ao passo que em 1899, 34 por cento da produção universal foi extrahido da canna e 66 por cento da beterraba.

É para os economistas determinarem quanto esta situação se deve ao desaparecimento dos escravos, que existiam em todo o territorio productor de canna no principio do periodo em consideração; mas é facto que a produção universal de assucar de canna em 1899, apenas bastaria as necessidades do consumo dos Estados Unidos, depois de deduzida a quantidade para o consumo nos paizes de produção.

Uma das principaes casas de Nova York calcula em 2,862,000 toneladas a produção universal de assucar de canna. As estatisticas da Repartição de Estatistica mostram que a importação total de assucar nos Estados Unidos no exercicio de 1889, foi de 1,964,170 toneladas. Assim, si se ajuntasse todo o assucar de canna produzido no mundo em 1899, subtrahindo-se a quantidade necessaria para o consumo local no paiz de procedencia, a produção apenas igualaria a quantidade de assucar que os Estados Unidos importaram naquelle anno. Com isso não se deve entender que os Estados Unidos importam todo o excedente de canna de assucar no mundo.

Pelo contrario, o consumo do assucar de beterraba nos Estados Unidos vai augmentando constantemente, e, no anno 1899, a importação deste producto foi maior que em qualquer anno anterior, com a excepção unica de 1897, quando as importações foram excessivamente grandes por motivo das modificações na lei de tarifa. A importação de assucar de beterraba no exercicio de 1899 foi de 723,336,352 libras, e a importação total de assucar foi de 3,517,950,689 libras. Assim, se vê, que o assucar de beterraba, depois de dominar os mercados da Europa, faz agora a quinta parte das importações deste producto nos Estados Unidos, apesar de que está na proximidade dos Estados Unidos grande parte do territorio productor de assucar do mundo.

A quantidade de assucar produzida nos principaes paizes productores de assucar de canna do mundo, no anno 1899-1900, foi como se segue:

	Toneladas.
Java .....	722, 000
Cuba .....	400, 000
Ilhas de Hawai .....	275, 000
Brazil .....	175, 000
Mauricia .....	150, 000
Australia .....	140, 000
Estados Unidos (Estado de Louisiana) .....	132, 000
Outros paizes .....	868, 000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2, 862, 000</b>

A quantidade de assucar de beterraba produzida no mundo no mesmo anno foi como se segue:

	Toneladas.
Allemanha .....	1, 780, 000
Austria .....	1, 120, 000
França .....	960, 000
Russia .....	885, 000
Belgica .....	290, 000
Hollanda .....	170, 000
Outros paizes .....	275, 000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>5, 480, 000</b>

O seguinte quadro mostra a producção universal de assucar de canna e de beterraba nos periodos de dez annos de 1840 a 1900:

PRODUÇÃO.

Annos.	Assucar de canna.	Assucar de beterraba.	Total.	Porcentagem fornecida pelo assucar de beterraba.
	<i>Toneladas.</i>	<i>Toneladas.</i>	<i>Toneladas.</i>	
1840 .....	1, 100, 000	50, 000	1, 150, 000	4.35
1850 .....	1, 200, 000	200, 000	1, 400, 000	14.29
1860 .....	1, 510, 000	389, 000	1, 899, 000	20.43
1870 .....	1, 585, 000	831, 000	2, 416, 000	34.40
1880 .....	1, 852, 000	1, 402, 000	3, 254, 000	43.08
1890 .....	2, 069, 000	3, 633, 000	5, 702, 000	63.70
1900 .....	2, 862, 000	5, 575, 000	8, 437, 000	66.08

## PRODUÇÃO DE ASSUCAR DE BORDO.

É muito interessante o processo de fabricação de assucar e de xarope de bordo. Esses productos fabricam-se da seiva da arvore de bordo que se encontra na parte septentrional dos Estados Unidos e no sul do Canadá. Existem mais que trinta especies desta arvore, das quaes dez encontram-se nos Estados Unidos. A especie de bordo de que se obtem o assucar é muito valiosa tambem por sua madeira, viudo immediatamente depois do carvalho na estimação dos marceneiros. Do tronco desta arvore se obtem as madeiras denominadas “curly” e “birdseye maple.” A arvore mede, pela média, 75 pés de altura, com ramos espalhados e espessa folhagem.

A produção de xarope e assucar de bordo é limitada principalmente aos Estados de Vermont, Massachusetts, e Ohio, os quaes produzem nesta ordem. Muitos dos terrenos onde se produz o assucar encontram-se na parte occidental do Estado de Ohio. Os methodos empregados na preparação do assucar, ha um quarto de seculo, eram muito imperfeitos. O succo corria das arvores por tubos de madeira e era recebido em celhas feitas de troncos de arvores de tres pés de comprimento, cortados ao meio. Quando estavam cheias, juntava-se o succo em baldes para ser transportado a grandes caldeiras. Assim o producto era mesclado com arêa, folhas, etc.

Hoje, um grande “sugar bush” contem de 800 a 1,000 arvores. No principio da epoca de extracção, que é geralmente no mez de Fevereiro, se faz no tronco da arvore uma incisão de meia pollegada de diametro. Si a arvore tem tres pés de diametro, podem-se fazer com segurança seis incisões, mas, em regra geral, se praticam duas incisões em cada arvore de duas pollegadas de profundidade. Nestas incisões se collocam tubos de metal, das quaes são pendurados baldes de folha de flandres. A rapidez com que esses baldes se enchem depende inteiramente da estação. A epoca em que o succo ou seiva é mais abundante é a das geadas. Essa estação dura ordinariamente seis semanas, terminando em fins de Março.

O succo é transportado á casa onde se fabrica o assucar, em tanques na forma de tinas com capacidade de meia pipa ou mais e depois passado a um grande tanque tendo ordinariamente 13 pés de comprimento, 4 pés de largo e 2 pés de fundo. Deste tanque o succo passa por meio de um appparelho automatico para a caldeira de evaporação. Quando o thermometro na caldeira chega a 218° Fah. abre-se uma porta por onde passa o liquido para outro compartimento da caldeira. Quando chega a esse compartimento o liquido torna-se xarope de lei ou pesa 12 libras por gallão. Conforme uma lei do Estado de Ohio, os fabricantes de xarope de bordo teem de pôr rotulos em cada lata de xarope, garantindo sua pureza e levando o nome do fabricante.

Uma arvore produz, em média, um gallão de xarope. Uma arvore de tamanho extraordinario tendo 6 pés de diametro, produziu durante 24 horas um barril de succo. Vende-se o xarope de bordo por 50 centavos a \$1 o gallão, conforme a qualidade e estação. A renda proveniente da producção de assucar e xarope de bordo no Estado de Ohio em 1899 foi de \$1,250,000.

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## LOCOMOTIVAS AMERICANAS NA EUROPA.

Os Senhores CHARLES PEDEZERT e JOSEPH FERRAND, empregados de importancia nas estradas de ferro da França, têm estado ultimamente em Philadelphia. O objecto de sua visita é estudar o systema viaferreo dos Estados Unidos, e ao mesmo tempo examinar as dez locomotivas que estão em via de construcção para as estradas de ferro nas officinas de Baldwin.

O caminho de ferro que estes senhores representam foi o primeiro que introduziu locomotivas americanas na França. Ha dous annos se encommendou á Companhia Baldwin a construcção de dez locomotivas, e durante oito mezes as ditas machinas teem estado em uso em França. Algum tempo depois se pediu um numero igual, e estas locomotivas estão agora em construcção. O trabalho que tem feito as que se acham funcconando tem demonstrado de uma maneira evidente sua efficacia. Apezar dos dous mil dollares que cada locomotiva de Baldwin paga em França como direitos de importação, e dos outros gastos indispensaveis, os fabricantes podem vendel-as allá a um preço dous mil dollares menor que o que se cobra por machinas desta classe de construcção europea.

As experiencias feitas com as locomotivas de Baldwin teem servido notavelmente para desenvolver o interesse que hoje se sente em França em relação ao systema de estradas de ferro dos Estados Unidos. Varios representantes de diferentes vias ferreas francezas teem visto as locomotivas americanas em operação e teem-se manifestado muito satisfeitos com ellas. Alem destas machinas, têm-se pedido de França aos Estados Unidos wagões de aço para carga.

Uma das razões mais poderosas que têm influenciado os Francezes a pedir locomotivas a este paiz para suas estradas de ferro, é a promptidão com que estas machinas se fabricam nos Estados Unidos. Entre os paizes que offerecem excellent mercado a esta producção americana devem mencionar-se Russia e Hespanha. Na opinião dos citados Senhores PEDEZERT e FERRAND, as locomotivas americanas teem dado em Europa os resultados mais satisfactorios. Um facto notavel a este respeito é que até de Belgica, que se considerava o grande paiz constructor de locomotivas, se teem pedido machinas desta classe aos Estados Unidos.



## SITUAÇÃO DOS LAVRADORES DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

O periodico "American Agriculturist," em seu numero correspondente a 17 de Março 1900, contem um artigo descrevendo a situação das classes agricolas dos Estados Unidos e mostrando que os cultivadores, considerados collectivamente, estão hoje gozando de uma prosperidade nunca até agora conhecida. O "Agriculturist" diz o que segue:

A melhora assombrosa da situação agricola, na actualidade, em comparação com a profunda depressão em 1894-1896, é tão pouco comprehendida pelo publico como foi comprehendida a situação dos lavradores durante a depressão. Pode-se dizer sem exaggero que a produção agricola dos Estados Unidos neste anno dará para os lavradores \$1,600,000,000 mais do que a somma realizada nos annos da depressão, 1894-1896. Isto representa um augmento médio de 31 por cento, comparada com a produção mais baixa.

Estes valôres mostram um augmento de 6 por cento, ou cerca de \$400,000,000, sobre os de 1889, anno que era muito prospero. O valor total dos principaes productos agricolas no anno passado mostra um augmento de 32 por cento sobre o do anno de 1895-96, ou de \$521,000,000. O valor dos outros productos, incluindo as aves domesticas e outros productos de menor importancia que são fontes de renda, mostra um augmento de \$200,000,000, ou de 20 por cento. \* \* \* Aos que não estejam iniciados nesta industria talvez pareçam excessivos esses algarismos, mas quando pensamos que a renda proveniente da venda de aves domesticas e de ovos ascende a mais de \$300,000,000 por anno, comprehende-se melhor que as nossas estatisticas são moderadas. O valor dos productos lacticinios, dos porcos e productos de porco, gado vaceum, carneiros, pelles, etc., attinge cerca da metade do valor dos animaes vivos no principio de cada anno. Essa conclusão baseia-se sob investigações cuidadosas feitas n'uma serie de annos.

O valor de terrenos, casas de residencia, dependencias, etc., que diminuiu enormemente durante a crise, tem sido restabelecido. O valor das fazendas dos Estados Unidos, incluindo obras de melhora-mento, monta hoje a \$14,500,000,000, approximadamente, que, comparado com o valor mais baixo durante a crise, mostra um augmento de \$2,500,000,000, e de \$1,220,000,000, comparado com o valor em Junho 1890.

O valor dos animaes vivos nas fazendas em Janeiro 1900, foi de \$2,558,000,000, o qual mostra um augmento de \$698,000,000, ou de 27 por cento. \* \* \*

Ha actualmente empregada na industria agricola dos Estados Unidos, a quantia de \$17,550,000,000, o que mostra um augmento de \$3,300,000 000, sobre a quantia empregada no periodo de depressão, e um

augmentos de cerca de \$1,600,000,000 sobre a correspondente ao anno de 1890, como foi determinada pelo recenseamento federal.

O augmento havido no numero de fazendas nos ultimos dez annos é de 400,000, contra um augmento de 600,000 na decada anterior, ou um augmento de cerca de 1,500,000, de 1870 a 1880. Maior proporção (69 por cento) destas fazendas são occupadas por seus donos do que ha dez annos, occupando os arrendatarios 31 por cento, contra 32 por cento em 1890. \* \* \*

Outro facto notavel é que o numero de fazendas hypothecadas não é maior hoje do que foi ha dez annos. A quantia exacta paga na liquidção das hypothecas não é possivel determinar mas parece que é approximadamente \$300,000,000. O valor das fazendas mostra um augmento, ao passo que as hypothecas sobre ellas, pela média, tem diminuido. A taxa de juro tambem tem diminuido. A maior parte das hypothecas existentes foram contrahidas para comprar a fazenda ou fazer nella obras de melhoramento. \* \* \*

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## A INDUSTRIA DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS SOB O PUNTO DE VISTA FRANCEZ.

Segundo um numero recente da "Revue du Commerce," o grande augmento no commercio de exportação dos Estados Unidos já não se deve, como nos annos anteriores, ao seu trigo, productos conservados e petroleo, mas á crescente importancia do seu commercio em artigos manufacturados.

Em 1899, houve uma diminuição de \$70,000,000 na exportação de productos naturaes, mas não obstante isso, o movimento de exportação dos Estados Unidos neste anno foi maior que em 1898, anno em que attingiu uma importancia sem exemplo na historia do paiz, como resultado das mas colheitas na Europa. Este augmento se deve especialmente á exportação de artigos manufacturados que em 1897 foi no valor de \$308,000,000, ao passo que em 1899 attingiu o valor de \$381,000,000.

Hoje os Estados Unidos exportam quasi a mesma quantidade de productos manufacturados que a França. Este facto é tanto mais notavel, pois que até agora a exportação dos Estados Unidos dependia exclusivamente da importancia de sua agricultura.

As diversas circumstancias que têm contribuido para este resultado são: primeiro, o desenvolvimento excepcional de negocios em 1899; segundo, a prosperidade sem exemplo da industria metallurgica e a declaração da guerra do Transvaal que tem limitado a exportação da Grã Bretanha; em terceiro lugar, a manutenção dos preços de 1898 e 1899, e finalmente as importações dos Estados Unidos nas suas novas possessões das Antilhas e das Philippinas.

Os Allemeães, no meio de sua crescente prosperidade, preoccupam-se mais da rivalidade dos Estados Unidos que da resistencia dos manufactureiros britannicos.

Dá-se em seguida a exportação de productos manufacturados americanos durante os ultimos annos e a proporção que tem com a exportação total:

	Valor.	Por cento.
1893-94 .....	\$183, 718, 000	21. 1
1894-95 .....	183, 596, 000	23. 2
1895-96 .....	228, 571, 000	26. 5
1896-97 .....	227, 286, 000	26. 9
1897 .....	279, 617, 000	25. 9
1898 .....	307, 925, 000	25. 9
1899 .....	380, 788, 000	30. 4

## OS ESTADOS UNIDOS NO PACIFICO.

Este é o thema de um notavel artigo publicado no numero 152 do "Public Ledger" de Philadelphia, correspondente ao 20 de Março proximo passado. Entre outras cousas interessantes, o dito artigo diz o seguinte:

"Poucos Americanos sabem quantas ilhas possuem os Estados Unidos no Pacifico e a importancia das mesmas. São nada menos de 1,500 a 1,600 e comprehendem todos os climas e zonas, offerecendo, ao mesmo tempo, muitos typos differentes da especie humana em diversos grãos de civilização, desde os aleusianos vestidos de pelles até os negros seminús das Filippinas.

"Essas possessões variam em quanto ao tamanho desde as que são simplesmente rochas ou bancos de coral até as grandes, como a ilha de Luzon, que tem uma extensão de 41,000 milhas quadradas, ou seja uma extensão igual á de New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut e New Jersey. Nessa vasta região se encontram as pelles do Arctico, as fructas da zona temperada e os productos dos tropicos.

"As possessões mais importantes dos Estados Unidos no Pacifico, incluem o grupo de Santa Barbara, cerca da costa da California, as ilhas que formam parte do territorio de Alaska, as de Hawai e o archipelago das Filippinas. As ilhas das regiões arcticas incluem um grupo de grande tamanho, cerca da costa meridional de Alaska, e toda a cadeia das Aleusianas que se estende de America á Asia. O archipelago de Hawai consta de doze a quinze ilhas de mais ou menos importancia. Hawai é como do tamanho do Estado de Connecticut. Estas ilhas ficam 2,100 milhas ao sudueste de San Francisco. Sua extensão total é de 6,600 milhas quadradas. O grupo das Filippinas

comprehende como 1,400 ilhas, com uma extensão territorial de 114,326 milhas quadradas.

“Tambem possuem os Estados Unidos a ilha de Guam do grupo das Marianas ou dos Ladrões, e outras de menor importancia.”

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## O COMMERCIO DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS NO ORIENTE.

O “Moniteur Officiel du Commerce” publicou sobre este particular um notavel artigo, no qual diz, entre outras cousas, o seguinte:

“As casas exportadoras de Manila começaram de novo seus negocios com actividade. O commercio de exportação tem experimentado varias mudanças por causa da occupação das Filippinas pelos Estados Unidos. Os commerciantes daquella colonia se teem visto obrigados a estudar as novas condições sob as quaes se farão d’aqui em adiante as importações de manufacturas estrangeiras. Antes da guerra hispano-americana se introduziam nas Filippinas artigos de toda classe provenientes de Inglaterra, Hespanha, França, Belgica, etc.

“Os Estados Unidos, cujo commercio com aquellas ilhas era antes muito pequeno, estão agora abastecendo a Manila, praça que cada dia tem mais importancia. Os commerciantes daquella cidade teem-se convencido de que para fazer concorrência com os Americanos necessitam de importar mercadorias dos Estados Unidos, e por isso é que se vêm agora em todas as lojas de Manila os productos das fabricas americanas.”

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## FABRICAS DE GENEROS DE ALGODÃO.

O augmento na fabricação de toda classe de generos de algodão no sul dos Estados Unidos continúa tão activo como sempre. O periodico, “The New Orleans Times-Democrat,” diz que em um dia se estabeleceram quatro fabricas nos Estados de Georgia e Mississippi, as quaes requerem um capital de \$1,100,000. O recenseamento que se verificará neste anno dará a conhecer de uma maneira exacta este extraordinario progresso industrial, e uma comparação com o estado de cousas ha dez annos, quando se fez o recenseamento de 1890, revelará um dos phenomenos mais notaveis que este paiz tem visto em seu desenvolvimento fabril, phenomeno calculado para dar muito que pensar aos fabricantes da Nova Inglaterra.

## PROGRESSO SCIENTIFICO NO ANNO DE 1899.

Sob este titulo diz o "Public Ledger," de Philadelphia, em seu numero correspondente a 16 de Março proximo passado o seguinte:

"O anno passado foi notavel no que se refere a obras de engenharia, tanto pelas que foram projectadas como pelas que se teem terminadas, e merecem a ser mencionados especialmente o grande canal de desagüe de Chicago, praticamente concluido já, e as novas represas do canal do São Lorenzo, as quaes, ao tomar possível que vapores de alto mar que medem 270 pés de largura, passem dos grandes lagos ao oceano Atlantico, porão as cidades situadas sobre as costas daquelles em communição directa por agua com o littoral Atlantico. O canal de desagüe de Chicago é um dos mais grandes que se teem construido. Tem 35 milhas de comprimento, 22 pés de profundidade e uma largura maxima de 202 pés. O custo desta obra foi de \$33,000,000.

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## BRAZIL.

## CONGRESSO NACIONAL DE EDUCAÇÃO.

O "Jornal do Commercio," de 5 de Março ultimo, publica o regulamento do Congresso Nacional de Educação que vai reunir-se na Capital Federal em commemoração do Centenario do Descobrimento do Brazil. As disposições do regulamento são as seguintes:

"ART. 1º. Por ocasião das festas do Centenario do Descobrimento do Brazil reunir-se-ha na capital da Republica, sob a Presidencia do Ministro e Secretario de Estado dos Negocios Interiores, um Congresso Nacional de Educação para os seguintes fins:

Verificar as actuaes condições da educação nacional. Indicar os principios fundamentaes da educação que, a bem da estabilidade e prosperidade da Republica, devem ser igualmente observados no Districto Federal e nos Estados. Discutir as principaes questões concernentes á educação physica, moral, civica, religiosa, litteraria, scientifica, artistica e profissional. Habilitar a Republica Brasileira a dignamente se fazer representar no Congresso Internacional de Educação, que se reúne em Pariz, na época da exposição.

"ART. 2º. São membros do Congresso: O Ministro e Secretario de Estado dos Negocios Interiores e o Director Geral de Instrução da Secretaria do Interior; o Director Geral e mais membros do Conselho Director da Instrução Publica do Districto Federal; os Inspectores Escolares do Districto Federal; os Directores, Directoras e Professores cathedricos dos institutos officiaes de ensino literario, scientifico,

artístico e profissional do Districto Federal; sete professores publicos de instrucção primaria do Districto Federal, eleitos pela respectiva classe; sete professoras publicas de instrucção primaria do Districto Federal indicadas pelo Director Geral de Instrucção; os directores e directoras dos institutos particulares de ensino litterario, scientifico, artistico e profissional da Capital Federal, que tenham mais de 50 alumnos; tres delegados que, dentre seus membros, eleger cada um dos referidos institutos particulares; os organisadores do Congresso de Instrucção de 1883 e os autores dos pareceres elaborados para o mesmo Congresso; os membros das commissões de instrucção publica dos Congressos Nacional e Estadoaes e do Conselho Municipal do Districto Federal; o Director Geral de Saude Publica; o Director de Hygiene Municipal; os Directores do Museo e Observatorios Nacionaes e das bibliothecas existentes na Capital Federal; os professores que são membros do Congresso Nacional; os Directores ou Inspectores da instrucção publica dos Estados; dous delegados que eleger cada um dos institutos officiaes e particulares de ensino litterario, scientifico, artistico e profissional existentes nos Estados, e que tenham mais de 50 alumnos; dous delegados que, dentre si, elegerem os professores publicos de instrucção primaria da capital de cada um dos Estados; duas professoras propostas pelo director ou inspector da instrucção publica de cada um dos Estados; os presidentes das associações pedagogicas, litterarias e scientificas da Capital Federal e tres delegados que, dentre seus membros, eleger cada uma das referidas associações; as redacções dos jornaes diarios e das revistas pedagogicas, scientificas e litterarias da Capital Federal e dos Estados; as mais pessoas que o Presidente do Congresso convidar dentre as que se houverem distinguido no magisterio ou por publicações uteis á educação.

“ART. 3º. O Presidente do Congresso pedirá aos Governos Federal e Estadoaes as necessarias licenças para os empregados publicos, membros do referido Congresso, comparecerem ás respectivas sessões, sem perda de seus vencimentos.

“ART. 4º. Serão convidados para as sessões do Congresso os professores, jornalistas e litteratos estrangeiros que se acharem na Capital Federal por occasião das festas do centenario do descobrimento do Brazil.

“ART. 5º. As conferencias do Congresso versarão sobre as questões indicadas no programma annexo.

“ART. 14. Dividir-se-ha o Congresso nas seguintes secções: Jardim da infancia e escolas primarias; escolas normaes; educação da infancia desamparada e culpada; educação dos cegos; educação dos surdos-mudos; bibliothecas e museos escolares e pedagogicos; ensino industrial; ensino agricola; ensino commercial; institutos de ensino secundario; escolas polytechnicas; faculdades de direito; faculdades de medicina; faculdades de letras; escolas militares; escolas navaes;

escolas de bellas-artes. Para cada uma das mencionadas secções haverá no conselho uma commissão especial.

“Art. 15. Os assumptos communs a todas as secções serão discutidos e votados por todo o Congresso; os peculiares a cada uma das secções sómente pelos membros dessa secção.

“Art. 16. As sessões serão publicas.

“Art. 17. Terminados os trabalhos do Congresso, o Vice-Presidente apresentará ao Governo um relatorio contendo não só a apreciação das discussões sobre cada um dos pontos tratados, como a indicação dos meios praticos de levar a effeito as providencias e reformas reputadas necessarias ou convenientes.”

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## CUBA.

### CONSOLIDAÇÃO DAS ESTRADAS DE FERRO.

O “Daily Journal of Finance,” de New York, em seu numero correspondente a 28 de Março, diz que, si é levado a effeito o projecto do Sr. Sir WILLIAM VAN HORNE, ex-presidente da Canadian Pacific Railroad, e de alguns capitalistas americanos, para a consolidação das estradas de ferro de Cuba, supprirá uma necessidade por muito tempo reclamada na ilha. O que a ilha de Cuba tem necessitado principalmente, tem sido e é um systema de vias ferreas tocando nas principaes cidades e habilitando os cultivadores e homeus de negocio de Cuba a transportarem com facilidade seus productos para os mercados.

As estradas de ferro existentes na ilha, notavelmente as linhas de Havana, Santa Clara e Holguin, foram construidas principalmente para fins militares e nunca offereciam facilidades de transporte ao commercio de Cuba, ao passo que muitos districtos em que se cultivaram os principaes productos da ilha, não eram em communicação com as principaes linhas.

Durante o regimen hespanhol existia um forte sentimento entre os capitalistas de Cuba em favor de um systema, abrangendo as linhas mencionadas e estendendo-as a todas as cidades de importancia na ilha.

## ESTADOS UNIDOS.

## COMMERCIO COM OS PAIZES ESTRANGEIROS EM FEVEREIRO, 1900.

O commercio com os paizes estrangeiros no mez de Fevereiro de 1900 foi o mais notavel de que ha recorde neste mez na historia do paiz. Segundo as estatisticas publicadas pela Secretaria do Thesouro no dia 24 de Março, as exportações neste mez foram, pela média, no valor de \$5,000,000 por cada dia de trabalho durante o mez, e o total da exportação foi 25 por cento maior que o do mesmo mez em qualquer anno anterior. Tambem o excesso das exportações sobre as importações foi muito maior do que no mesmo mez de qualquer anno anterior.

O mez de Fevereiro é o em que, todos os annos, se fazem grandes importações e muitas vezes acontece que o valor das importações é igual ou excede ao das exportações. O facto que no mez de Fevereiro de 1900 as exportações excederam as importações em mais de \$50,000,000 é muito notavel, e isto, não obstante que as importações, que foram no valor de mais de \$68,000,000, foram maiores que as de qualquer anno anterior com excepção do de 1893. Ver-se-ha mais claramente a importancia deste commercio quando se diz que a exportação média correspondente ao mez de Fevereiro nos ultimos dez annos foi no valor de \$76,000,000, ao passo que a exportação total no mez de Fevereiro de 1900 foi no valor de \$119,389,902.

Por outro lado, as importações effectuadas no mez de Fevereiro durante os ultimos dez annos foram no valor médio de \$61,000,000, sendo o excesso das exportações sobre as importações neste mez durante aquelle periodo no valor, pelo termo médio, de \$15,000,000, ao passo que o excesso das exportações sobre as importações no mez de Fevereiro de 1900 foi no valor de mais de \$50,000,000.

O quadro detalhado publicado pela Secretaria do Thesouro é o seguinte:

## IMPORTAÇÃO.

	1900.	1899.
Productos alimenticios e animaes .....	\$16, 254, 153	\$17, 616, 759
Artigos em estado crú para as industrias nacionaes .....	25, 936, 601	19, 783, 058
Artigos em todo ou em parte manufacturados para ser empregados nas manufaturas e artes mechanicas .....	6, 732, 437	4, 091, 413
Artigos manufacturados para consumo no paiz .....	10, 734, 428	9, 520, 993
Artigos de uso voluntario, de luxo, etc.....	9, 116, 531	9, 246, 229
Importação total.....	68, 774, 150	60, 258, 452



## EXPORTAÇÃO.

	1900.	1899.
Productos de agricultura .....	\$75,097,746	\$62,378,985
Productos de fabricas .....	34,226,128	24,489,860
Productos de minas .....	3,184,022	1,889,826
Productos de florestas .....	3,548,209	2,741,927
Productos de pesca .....	389,560	253,089
Productos miscellaneos .....	946,779	431,685
Total .....	117,836,444	92,185,372
Total da exportação nacional .....	1,422,071	726,368
Total da exportação estrangeira .....	631,387	925,411

Das importações correspondentes ao mez de Fevereiro de 1900, 44.66 por cento entraram livres de direitos, contra 46.58 por cento em 1899. Os direitos cobrados montaram a \$19,882,253 em Fevereiro de 1900, contra \$16,921,572 em Fevereiro de 1899.

Das exportações, 69.46 por cento foram livres de direitos, contra 43.97 por cento em Fevereiro de 1899.

## ESTADO DAS COLHEITAS.

O boletim publicado pelo Departamento de Agricultura o 1º do corrente dá as seguintes informações sobre a condição das colheitas.

Nos estados situados a leste do rio Mississippi, com excepção dos do sul, a estação tem sido geralmente desfavoravel para as sementei-ras. Houve grandes chuvas em algumas partes dos estados do Golfo e cahiu grande quantidade de neve na região dos Lagos e em Nova Inglaterra. Nos estados da costa do Pacifico e nos districtos das Mon-tanhas de Rocha o tempo tem estado muito favoravel e tem-se feito muito progresso nos trabalhos de preparação do terreno.

Segundo informações recebidas, a estação foi geralmente desfavoravel para o trigo de inverno nos estados de Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Penn-sylvania e Nova Jersey. Nos estados de Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky e Maryland o trigo de inverno está em boa condição e muito promettedor. Com excepção de uma zona limitada no sul da Califor-nia, o trigo de inverno nos estados da costa do Pacifico é bem desen-volvido. Trigo de primavera tem sido semeado na parte meridional dos districtos cultivadores deste trigo e tambem no estado de Montana, onde a estação tem sido extraordinariamente adiantada. Está-se se-meando milho nos estados do sul até o de Carolina do Norte. No sul do estado de Texas foi semeada em Março a maior parte desta colheita.

Na data deste relatorio, a aveia estava sendo semeada nos estados de Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, e Kansas, ao passo que em Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, e Mississippi, as plantas já estavam bro-tando. Segundo informações recebidas de Virginia e Georgia, a aveia foi destruida devido ao rigor do inverno. O algodão estava sendo semeado na parte meridional da região em que se cultivava este producto.

Quanto ás fructas a perspectiva é boa, ainda que os pecegueiros soffreram damnos em Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, e Ohio.

Fallando em geral, o solo está em boa condição em todo o paiz e uma parte consideravel dos terrenos já teem sido lavrados.

#### **ESTATISTICAS SOBRE A PRODUÇÃO DE AÇO DE BESSEMER.**

O boletim da American Iron and Steel Association contem dados estatisticos sobre a produção nos Estados Unidos de linguados e trilhos de aço de Bessemer. A produção total de linguados de aço de Bessemer em 1899 foi de 7,586,354 toneladas brutas, contra 6,609,017 toneladas brutas em 1898, o qual mostra um augmento de 977,337 toneladas, ou mais de 14 por cento. A produção do estado de Pennsylvania foi de 3,968,779 toneladas; a de Ohio, 1,679,237 toneladas; Illinois, 1,211,246 toneladas, e outros estados, 727,092 toneladas. A produção em 1899 foi muito maior que em anno qualquer anterior.

A produção de trilhos de aço de Bessemer em 1899 foi de 2,240,767 toneladas, contra 1,955,427 toneladas em 1898. O "Iron Age" calcula que a produção total de trilhos de todas as classes foi de 2,300,000 toneladas em 1899. A quantidade de trilhos de ferro que se manufactura agora nos Estados Unidos é muito reduzida.

Entre os incidentes que teem acompanhado a recente alta de preços do ferro e aço figuram os altos preços obtidos pelos trilhos estragados. Ha pouco tempo estes foram vendidos por \$10 por tonelada, ao passo que hoje se vendem por \$25 e \$30 por tonelada. Assim se apresenta a anomalia de serem vendidos os trilhos estragados por um preço superior ao por que foram comprados ha dez annos.

#### **EXTENSÃO DA AREA FLORESTAL.**

A area das florestas dos Estados Unidos, que foi de 26 por cento, tem attingido a 37 por cento, segundo os ultimos calculos feitos pela Secção de Geographia e Florestas da Repartição Geologica dos Estados Unidos. Aquella repartição tem publicado um boletim contendo novos dados sobre as florestas do paiz, os quaes demonstram que os recursos nacionaes a este respeito são maiores que geralmente se suppõe.

Os ultimos dous estados que teem sido examinados pela Repartição Geologica são os de Oregon e Washington, que estão situados na parte extrema do nordeste do paiz. Calcula-se que aquelle contem 234,653 milhões de pés de madeira ainda em pé, e que este tem 114,778 milhões de pés. Os prejuizos que as florestas do estado de Washington teem soffrido no passado têm sido muito grandes. Sob a hypothese que as areas queimadas continham, pela média, a mesma quantidade de madeira que as areas intactas, 40,000,000,000 pés de madeira teem sido destruidos.

Esta quantidade, segundo os calculos do "Lumber Trade Journal,"

supprirá todas as fabricas de serrar pelo espaço de dous annos, e ao preço de só 75 centavos por mil pés, importa para o estado de Washington um prejuizo de \$30,000,000. A quantidade de madeira cortada no mesmo periodo foi de 36,000 milhões de pés. As florestas de Oregon foram menos prejudicadas por incendios, e devido ás poucas facilidades de transporte neste estado a quantidade cortada foi muito menor.

### A POPULAÇÃO INDIA.

Como annexos ao seu relatorio annual, o Commissario de Negocios dos Indios dos Estados Unidos dá os relatorios dos diversos agentes de Indios. Segundo estes relatorios a população india dos Estados Unidos é de 297,905 seres, dos quaes 95,679 trazem vestidos semelhantes aos dos habitantes brancos, 31,923 trazem vestidos que são uma combinação dos de Indios e de gente civilizada e os outros vestem-se em trajes de Indios. O numero dos Indios que podem ler é de 42,597, e o dos que podem fallar em inglez é de 53,314. O numero de casas de residencia construidas para os Indios é de 25,236, das quaes 1,153 foram construidas no anno de 1899. O numero dos nascimentos durante o anno foi de 4,237 e o dos fallecimentos 5,253. Ha 348 igrejas e 31,656 commungantes indios. As sociedades religiosas e outras contribuíram a somma de \$277,531 para a instrucção e a de \$119,407 para as igrejas.

O Governo tem nas diversas reservas cerca de 250 escolas, com mais de 2,000 professores. O ensino comprehende instrucção e trabalhos manuaes. As meninas recebem instrucção em obras domesticas e os meninos são instruidos na arte de cultivar a terra e nas artes ordinarias de industria.

Além das escolas mencionadas, que estão situadas nos lugares onde residem os Indios, ha varias outras em que se dá instrucção superior e scientifica. Estes estabelecimentos são a “Carlisle School,” o “Haskell Institute” e o “Hampton Institute.” Estes estabelecimentos, desde sua organização ha poucos annos, teem conferido diplomas a grande numero de estudantes. Muitos d’elles, infelizmente, teem voltado aos seus methodos primitivos.

### VENDAS DE BANANAS.

Pela primeira vez dentro do periodo de tres annos venderam-se em leilão na cidade de Nova York, no dia 28 de Março, bananas de Cuba. A fructa, em geral, não era de boa qualidade e obteve baixos preços, excepção feita da banana de côr vermelha. Desta ultima, sómente 400 cachos foram importados. A exportação de bananas de Cuba foi prohibida em 1896 por um decreto expedido pelo General WEYLER, então capitão-general da ilha.

Ha grande procura de bananas vermelhas pelos retalhistas, não obstante não serem em regra geral, tão prezadas pelo publico como as qualidades de côr amarella. É mais difficil conserval-as e o numero em um cacho é menor. Isto é um obstaculo contra a sua venda porque os retalhistas julgam de maior importancia o numero do que tamanho. O **BOLETIM MENSAL** já fez menção dos altos preços obtidos em Nova York na primavera de 1899 pelas bananas de côr vermelha que foram importadas da ilha de São Domingos.

#### **EXPOSIÇÃO DA ASSOCIAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL DA INDUSTRIA ANIMAL.**

A Associação Internacional da Industria Animal, que se reunirá na cidade de Chicago de 1 a 8 de Dezembro, 1900, annuncia que o livro de classificação preliminar e lista de premios está prompto para ser distribuido. Exemplares desta publicação serão enviados a quem escrever pedindo-os a “International Live Stock Exposition, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A.”

Os directores desta exposição dizem que têm certeza de que o Mexico, algumas das Republicas sul-americanas e varios paizes da Europa se farão representar na exposição. Muitos milhares de dollares serão distribuidos como premios.

#### **O MAIOR TERRENO DE TRIGO NA CALIFORNIA.**

Segundo o periodico “Export Implement Age,” o maior campo de trigo na California abrange uma area de 25,000 geiras, ou 40 milhas quadradas. Este enorme campo está situado nas margens do rio San Joaquin, na vizinhança da cidade de Clovis, condado de Madera, ainda que está situado em parte no condado de Fresno. O dono deste rancho é o Sr. CLOVIS COLE, e diz-se que a situação do rancho é ideal. A terra é plana, inclinando-se ligeiramente na direcção do rio. O campo tem a forma de quasi um quadro perfeito, cado lado tendo um pouco mais de 6 milhas de comprimento e em bom tempo se pode ver o campo inteiro de qualquer ponto do terreno. Não ha estradas no campo, mas cada pé quadrado de terreno será utilizado no cultivo do trigo. A primeira lavra do terreno realizou-se em Julho, 1899. Para fazer a colheita, que será uma tarefa herculana, se exigirão mais de 200 homens e 1,000 cavallos, assim como muitas toneladas de machinas.

#### **CRIADORES DE CABRAS DE ANGORA.**

No **BOLETIM MENSAL** correspondente ao mez de Fevereiro de 1900, pagina 291-292, se fez menção dos esforços feitos pela Secretaria de Agricultura dos Estados Unidos com o intuito de animar a industria da criação de cabras de Angora neste paiz. Segundo as indicações,

essa industria tem recebido impulso decisivo em varios dos estados e territorios. A industria tem augmentado tanto na parte sudoeste do paiz que tem dado em resultado a organização da American Angora Goat Breeders' Association, com sede em Kansas City, Missouri. A associação terá um livro de registro para garantir a genealogia das cabras. Assim os criadores de cabras de Angora poderão estabelecer modelos de criação como criadores de outras classes de animaes de raça pura. O Sr. THOMAS H. MASTIN, de Kansas City, é presidente da nova associação.

#### CONSTRUÇÃO DE NAVIOS NOS ESTALEIROS DE MAINE.

Diz-se que nos primeiros dous mezes de 1900 se construíram nos estaleiros de Maine navios sommando uma tonelagem total de 10,000, e que se espera que durante os outros mezes do anno a construção naval attingirá, em termo médio, a 5,000 de toneladas por mez. Não só estão-se construindo grande numero de escunas mas tambem navios de vela redonda, os quaes, devido ao alto preço de carvão, estão agora fazendo concorrência com os chamados "tramp steamers." Segundo o "New York Journal of Commerce," os estaleiros de Bath, Maine, têm contratos de navios sufficientes para manter empregados 1,000 operarios por um periodo de dous annos. Serão construidos nos estaleiros de ARTHUR SEWALL & Co. dous grandes navios de aço, de quatro mastros, e dizem que todas as outras installações de construção naval trabalham com grande actividade para satisfazer seus contratos.

#### TRILHOS AMERICANOS PARA UMA COMPANHIA DE LONDRES.

Um telegramma especial de Baltimore, com data de 11 de Março de 1900, informa que a "Maryland Steel Company" tem recebido da "Metropolitan Railway Company," de Londres, Inglaterra, uma encomenda de 1,500 toneladas de trilhos de aço. Essa mesma companhia está supprindo tambem de trilhos a "Trans-Siberian Railway" e fazendo embarques para outras partes da Asia e para Africa.

#### ESPARTO PARA VASSOURAS.

Segundo o periodico "Farm Implement News," cultiva-se no estado de Illinois dous terços da colheita de esparto do mundo. A colheita é incerta e para ter exito no cultivo deste producto se exige grande cuidado e pericia. O consumo universal é de cerca de 30,000 toneladas por anno e, ha alguns annos, só o estado de Illinois produziu 28,000 toneladas. Segundo o relatorio do Director da Estação Experimental de Agricultura da Universidade de Illinois, o esparto para vassouras custa, pela média, \$50 por tonelada, e se vende por \$70 a tonelada. Porem, o preço tem baixado ás vezes a \$30 por tonelada. Sob con-

dições ordinarias se necessitam tres geiras de terreno para produzir uma tonelada de esparto proprio para a fabricação de vassouras.

Diz-se que a colheita de 1899 foi muito inferior á colheita ordinaria e por consequinte o alto preço do producto tem dado animo á procura de outros productos para substituil-o. Já têm-se feito experiencias com grande numero de fibras, mas, emquanto tem sido provadas de utilidade para trabalhos grosseiros, são pesadas de mais para os fins ordinarios. Agora tem-se obtido uma fibra da nogueira americana que promete ser um bom substituto do esparto. Diz-se que uma vassoura fabricada desta fibra e do esparto, em certas proporções, durará mais que tres vassouras ordinarias. Ha uma fabrica em Chicago que manufactura esta classe de vassouras e diz-se que tem recebido grande numero de encomendas.

### CUNHAGEM DE PRATA.

As casas de moeda dos Estados Unidos serão muito occupadas por muitos mezes na cunhagem de prata no valor de \$80,000,000, que foi comprada de conformidade com a lei denominada "Sherman Act." A quantia de \$20,000,000 será cunhada em moeda subsidiaria, e o resto em dollares de peso legal. O Sr. GEORGE E. ROBERTS, Director da Casa de Moeda, diz que ha grande procura de prata subsidiaria e que tomará vantagem desta opportunidade para supprir os pedidos de moedas do valor de 10 centavos, 25 centavos e 50 centavos. Ao mesmo tempo será mantida em deposito grande quantidade de moeda subsidiaria para as necessidades do futuro.

A prata é depositada na casa de moeda de Philadelphia, mas parte della será cunhada na casa de moeda de Nova Orleans. Assim a quantidade de dollares de prata em circulação será muito augmentada. Para fazer a compra desta prata o Governo emittiu bilhetes do Thesouro pagaveis em prata, os quaes serão resgatados por estes novos dollares de prata.

### GOVERNADOR DE GUAM.

O Capitão LEARY, actual Governador da ilha de Guam no archipelago de Mariana, será substituido pelo Senhor Tenente Commandante SEATON SCHROEDER, Secretario da Secretaria de Inspecção Naval dos Estados Unidos. O Departamento da Marinha tem a expectativa de que a ilha de Guam tenha grande futuro commercial. Além de ser uma estação naval, se espera que d'aqui em diante tocarão na ilha todos os navios em viagem para a Manila, assim como na viagem de volta desta cidade. Será estabelecida nesta ilha uma estação do projectado cabo atravez do Pacifico. Crê-se que será estabelecido la tambem um deposito de carvão, o qual attrahirá os navios mercantes e assim a ilha de Guam tornar-se-ha um porto aonde tocarão regularmente todas as embarcações nestes mares.

**CONTRATO DE CARVÃO.**

Diz o "Public Ledger" de Philadelphia que um syndicato inglez tem celebrado um contrato por 2,000,000 toneladas de carvão de pedra de Alabama, que devem ser-lhe entregues em Nova Orleans para ser exportadas dentro de dous annos. O preço por que se contratou este carvão foi de 75 centavos por tonelada, entregue na bocca das minas, devendo accrescentar-se a esta quantia 50 centavos mais para gastos de transportação ao mencionado porto. O periodico atraz citado considera esta transacção como uma das mais importantes que teem verificado no sul dos Estados Unidos nos ultimos annos.

**IMMIGRANTES PORTUGUEZES NA NOVA INGLATERRA.**

O maior numero de immigrants Portuguezes que jamais teem chegado nos Estados Unidos foram desembarcados no porto de Nova York, no dia 27 de Março de 1900, tendo sido levados no paquete *Doña María*. O numero dos immigrants foi de 556, sendo os dous sexos quasi igualmente representados. Foram descriptos como "de bom aspecto, assejados e sãos." Foram para os estados de Nova Inglaterra, onde serão empregados na agricultura e na industria de pesca.

**NOVA EMPREZA PARA A CONSTRUÇÃO DE NAVIOS.**

O periodico "Daily Call," de São Francisco, em seu numero correspondente a 27 de Março, diz que os proprietarios das Risdon Iron Works daquela cidade tinham praticamente concluido as negociações pelas quaes tinham obtido as Pacific Rolling Mills, cujas installações abrangem uma area de 32 geiras e fazem frente á Bahia de São Francisco por uma distancia de 1,700 pés. Diz-se que um dique sufficiente para receber os maiores navios será construido e que a Risdon Iron Company despenderá a quantia de \$3,000,000 com a construcção de um grande estaleiro, que empregará, ao menos, 3,000 operarios.

**A INDUSTRIA DO LINHO.**

Segundo o "Minneapolis Tribune," a condição da industria do linho nos estados do noroeste é muito lisongeira. Em 1899 como 600,000 geiras de terreno foram semeadas de linho no estado de North Dakota, e a producção de sementes de linho foi de cerca de 7,200,000 *bushels*. Devido ao alto preço da semente de linho, os cultivadores foram bem remunerados, mas praticamente não houve mercado para a palha, a qual foi em grande parte queimada.

Sob recommendação de companhias de fibras de Boston, Mass., e Londres, uma fabrica de fibra de linho com uma producção mensal de 100 toneladas foi construida na cidade de Fargo. Com o estabelecimento

desta fabrica os cultivadores receberão grande beneficio porque terão um mercado tanto para a palha como para a semente do linho e o augmento no cultivo do producto é assegurado. A fabrica de Fargo fará experiencias na manufactura de papel de escrever da melhor qualidade e se crê que, si tiverem exito essas experiencias, se poderão produzir tambem tecidos de linho de todas as classes.

#### NOTAS MISCELLANEAS.

Em 1900 os limões de California terão maior importancia que nunca nos mercados do paiz. Diz-se que a colheita é maior e a qualidade do producto melhor do que nos annos anteriores e que se dará maior attenção este anno ao acondicionamento da fructa. A historia repete-se na industria de limões neste paiz. Até ha poucos annos, as ameixas, passas, figos, e quasi todas as outras fructas seccas que se consumiam nos Estados Unidos eram importadas, mas o estado de California tem podido produzir quasi todas essas fructas, as quaes são tão boas, si não melhores do que as estrangeiras. A industria do limão está apenas em sua infancia. Este anno a industria será estabelecida em base firme e á proporção que a colheita augmente, o mercado dos Estados Unidos será supprido em maior escala de limões da costa do Pacifico.

O barco *Ancona*, de Liverpool, depois de uma viagem de cento e cinquenta dias de Manila, chegou a Boston no dia 29 de Março, 1900, com uma carga de canhamo. Esta carga consistia de 18,300 fardos e era a maior que tem sido levada das Philippinas em um navio americano. Desde que o barco sahiu de Cêbu o valor do canhamo tem augmentado grandemente. Na data da sahida do barco a carga era estimada ser no valor de \$400,000, mas no dia de sua chegada a Boston o seu valor tinha augmentado a \$800,000.

A Belize Royal Mail and Central American Steamship Company foi organisada recentemente em Jersey City com um capital de \$100,000. A companhia vai estabelecer uma linha de vapores entre portos dos Estados Unidos e os de Honduras Britannica e outros paizes da America Central.

No intuito de preservar as arvores e arbustos da ilha de Porto Rico, o Governador-General DAVIS tem expedido um decreto que prohibe o corte ou a destruição de arvores ou arbustos nas terras publicas daquella ilha.



## BIBLIOGRAPHIA.

Nesta secção do Boletim Mensal se tratará dos livros e folhetos enviados á Secretaria das Republicas Americanas que se referem a assumptos de interesse aos paizes da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

O "Engineer" de Londres, em seu numero correspondente ao 23 de Fevereiro, 1900, contem um artigo sobre "American coal production," do qual transcrevemos os seguintes trechos: "Calcula-se que a produccão de carvão no anno passado foi de 244,581,275 toneladas, de 2,000 libras cada uma, ou de 218,376,000 toneladas inglezas. Quando a Junta de Commercio achar conveniente publicar os algarismos da produccão britannica, ver-se-há provavelmente que a America, pela primeira vez em sua historia, tem nos sobrepujado neste particular. Além d'isso, a escassez de carvão na Europa tem dado em resultado a exportação de carvão americano para este continente, cousa que é sem paralelo no passado, salvo em casos de grande urgencia ocasionados por paredes. É cousa de que se pode duvidar si ha nesta parte do mundo mercado constante para o carvão americano. Porem, como ficam reduzidos os supprimentos de carvão aqui e, por conseguinte, os preços muito altos, certamente seria proveitoso importar carvão dos Estados Unidos.

Em um artigo publicado em "Gunton's Magazine" em seu numero correspondente ao mez de Março, 1900, e intitulado "Hand and Machine Labor," o Honrado CARROLL D. WRIGHT, Commissario de Trabalho dos Estados Unidos, diz o que segue: "Ajuntando a força motora de todas as fabricas dos Estados Unidos em 1890, com excepção de algumas que deixaram de dar informações a este respeito, se vê que a força total foi, em algarismos redondos, de 6,000,000 cavallos, ou equivalente ao trabalho de 36,000,000 operarios. ao passo que sómente 4,476,884 operarios foram empregados. A força de cavallo equivalente a 36,000,000 trabalhadores representa uma população de 180,000,000; isto quer dizer, si o producto dos estabelecimentos manufactureiros dos Estados Unidos em 1890 tinha sido obtido pelos methodos antigos, sem machinas, teria exigido uma população de 180,000,000 e não teria deixado operarios para as outras industrias."

Na reunião annual da Associação Nacional de Educação, o Dr. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER leu um trabalho sobre o ensino nos Estados Unidos, o qual contem dados interessantes. Diz que a instrucção publica neste paiz está a cargo dos estados e que a quantia que nella se gasta é enorme, pois sómente as escolas publicas custam annualmente \$200,000,000, ou seja, calculando segundo a população, \$2.67 por

cabeça. Na Grã Bretanha e Irlanda se gastam por anno na instrucção publica mais de \$88,000,000; em França, \$58,000,000, e em Allemanha mais de \$108,000,000. Se vê, pois, accrescenta o Dr. BUTLER, que estas quatro grandes nações gastam annualmente na instrucção publica mais de \$450,000,000. Os Estados Unidos gastam cada anno em suas escolas publicas mais que a Grã Bretanha, França e Allemanha juntas em suas poderosas armadas. A quantia que as escolas publicas custam tem-se quasi triplicado desde 1870 a esta data.

O estudo lido perante o Instituto de Engenheiros de Mineração, em sua reunião em São Francisco, no mez de Setembro, 1899, tem sido publicado em forma de folheto com este titulo: "The manganese deposits of Bahia and Minas, Brazil." O autor deste estudo é o Professor JOHN C. BRANNER, da Universidade Leland Stanford, Jr.

"The stone reef at the mouth of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil," é o titulo de um pamphleto recentemente publicado pelos Srs. J. C. BRANNER e C. E. GILMAN. O assumpto de que trata este pamphleto é indicado pelo titulo. É uma reimpressão do artigo publicado no "American Geologist" de Dezembro, 1899.

O numero do "Current History" correspondente ao mez de Março, 1900, contem grande numero de retratos e illustrações de interesse excepcional a todas as pessoas que estudem os acontecimentos recentes nos Estados Unidos, America do Sul e Africa do Sul.

# BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

## BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

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VOL. VIII.

AVRIL 1900.

No. 4.

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### LE MAÏS SUR LES MARCHÉS DU MONDE.

Les statistiques relatives aux aliments montrent que la quantité totale de blé récoltée, même dans les années les plus productives, est loin de satisfaire aux demandes des millions d'habitants qui peuplent la terre. En effet, le pain fait avec le blé est ou un luxe ou entièrement inconnu d'un grand nombre de peuples. Quoique le blé contienne plus de substance nutritive que les autres céréales et possède ces qualités qui le font considérer comme l'aliment universel par excellence, son prix empêche les pauvres, dans de nombreux pays, de l'acheter. Même en Allemagne, qui est un des pays qui exportent le blé, on emploie pour faire le pain une grande quantité de seigle. Ceci se fait aussi remarquer en Russie, qui exporte annuellement des milliers de tonnes de blé, mais qui pourrait employer chaque grain cultivé et encore une grande quantité en dehors, si les paysans n'étaient pas obligés de vendre leurs stocks et de vivre d'une substance meilleure marché. La production du blé dépend de la contenance du sol, un acre de terre produisant moins de blé que de seigle, d'orge, d'avoine et de pommes de terre.

Si on pouvait trouver à la place du blé un substitut sain, acceptable, possédant en même temps l'avantage d'être meilleur marché, ce serait un bienfait inestimable pour les peuples mal nourris, et souvent mourant de faim, dans quelques pays européens et d'Asie.

Le maïs, qui pousse en si grande quantité dans toutes les parties de l'Amérique, remplit toutes ces conditions, et est une céréale souvent si abondante, que les prix que l'on reçoit pour elle ne suffisent pas pour payer les frais de transport. Pendant les années passées, dans de

nombreuses fermes de l'Ouest des Etats-Unis, le maïs a été employé comme combustible, étant meilleur marché que le bois ou le charbon et ne pouvant être utilisé autrement.

L'introduction du pain fait avec le maïs, comme un aliment sain, a rencontré quelques difficultés, les étrangers n'étant pas familiarisés avec son emploi et ne trouvant pas la façon dont il était préparé entièrement agréable au goût; mais, petit à petit, le marché au maïs s'est étendu, et en 1898 les exportations se sont montées à 208,744,939 boisseaux, évalués à \$74,196,850. Cependant, pendant les 12 mois finissant le 30 juin 1899, les exportations sont tombées à 174,089,094 boisseaux, évalués à \$68,977,448. Toutefois on peut constater que les exportations de blé en 1890, comparées avec celles de 1899, étaient, en chiffres ronds, de 86,000,000 boisseaux, soit encore une augmentation de plus de 100 pour cent en neuf ans. Pendant les 32 années qui viennent de s'écouler, la quantité de maïs produite aux Etats-Unis a augmenté de 868,000,000 à 1,924,000,000 boisseaux, soit un gain de 122 pour cent, pendant que les exportations ont augmenté de 16,000,000 à 174,000,000, ou plus de 1,000 pour cent.

Dans un récent rapport sur le maïs, Mr. le Professeur WILEY, chimiste du Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis, combat l'opinion qui prévaut en Europe que le maïs est moins digestible et moins nutritif que le blé. Dans les expériences qui ont été faites sur des animaux, la valeur nutritive du maïs a été clairement démontrée. Dans une série d'expériences, un boisseau de blé a produit, en moyenne, 13.7 livres de porc, où un boisseau de maïs a produit 12.3 livres; mais quand on a considéré la différence de poids entre les deux, le gain réel a été environ le même dans chaque cas. Les calculs basés sur le prix courant du blé et du maïs, démontrent que pour qu'un porc nourri de blé atteigne une augmentation de poids de 100 livres, cela coûte \$4.01, tandis qu'en le nourrissant de maïs, cela coûte seulement \$2.85 pour arriver au même résultat.

Au point de vue de la digestibilité pour les êtres humains, que les expériences pratiques ne peuvent déterminer que très difficilement, on est arrivé cependant à la conclusion, basée sur ce qui est connu comme les coefficients de la digestion du blé et des autres céréales, que le maïs n'est pas inférieur sous ce rapport au blé. Le pain fait avec le maïs est l'aliment principal du sud des Etats-Unis, et, mangé avec la graisse de porc, permet à l'ouvrier qui s'en nourrit, d'exécuter les travaux manuels les plus pénibles, sous un climat excessivement fatigant à cause de sa chaleur. Le maïs sert non seulement à nourrir le bétail ou à faire de la farine pour le pain, mais encore une grande quantité de maïs frais est employé comme aliment aux Etats-Unis. Le maïs doux sur la balle est un mets des plus désirables et des plus agréables au goût, pourvu qu'il soit frais et laiteux.

Le maïs conservé, différent de quelques autres conserves alimentaires,

est généralement reconnu être un substitut aussi bon que l'article frais, et on est plus sûr de l'obtenir dans de meilleures conditions quant à la qualité moyenne. Dans les principales fabriques de conserves alimentaires, le soin apporté dans la cueillaison des épis et dans la manipulation qui suit, donne un produit qui égale presque le meilleur maïs servi sur les tables pendant la saison et qui y a été apporté directement des champs où il a été cueilli. La conservation du maïs est devenue une grande industrie aux Etats-Unis. L'année 1899 a été une des plus heureuses sous ce rapport, quant aux prix obtenus et à la qualité mise en boîte. Il y a des fabriques de maïs conservés dans toutes les parties du pays, mais les Etats du Maine et de New-York sont les sources principales d'approvisionnement pour les marchés de l'Est. Le maïs récolté dans l'Etat du Maine est considéré supérieur et tient la tête quant au prix et à la qualité. En 1899, il existait dans l'Etat du Maine plus de 100 fabriques de conserve de maïs qui ont produit plus de 11,671,000 boîtes de maïs. On exprime du germe du maïs une huile précieuse, le résidu étant employé pour nourrir le bétail. En outre, presque tout l'amidon préparé aux Etats-Unis est extrait du maïs et la glucose est un des produits que l'on obtient aussi bien de la tige que du maïs lui-même.

Presque chaque partie de la plante est utilisée; les feuilles servent de fourrage pour les chevaux et le bétail, l'enveloppe des épis est employée à divers usages, particulièrement dans la fabrication des nattes et des paillasses et le bétail mange aussi une partie de la tige du maïs dont les fabriques utilisent la partie spongieuse comme étoupe dans les vaisseaux de guerre, pour fabriquer la poudre sans fumée, la dynamite et autres matières explosives. Elle entre aussi dans la fabrication du papier pour les arts, dans les vernis, les pellicules pour les kodaks, dans la fabrication des boîtes en carton, des étoffes imperméables et de la toile cirée, servant en outre à de nombreux usages. Ces fabriques emploient aussi la partie extérieure de la tige pour préparer un aliment pour le bétail. La barbe même qui se trouve sur l'épi sert à préparer une sorte de médecine. Il existe aux Etats-Unis trois établissements qui utilisent l'intérieur de la tige du maïs; le premier se trouve à Owensboro, Kentucky; le deuxième à West-Point, Virginia, et le troisième à Rockford, Illinois.

D'après la Commission de "Indiana Corn Growers' Association," un épi de maïs parfait est décrit de la façon suivante: Dans le tiers du nord de l'Etat, un épi parfait devrait avoir 9 pouces de longueur; dans le tiers du centre, 10 pouces, et dans le tiers du sud, 11 pouces de longueur. Le diamètre devrait être en longueur dans la proportion de 1 à 4 et l'épi rapporter 90 pour cent de grain. Quant à la forme elle devrait être cylindrique jusqu'à la pointe où elle deviendrait alors conique. Les rangées de grains devraient être droites et régulières et autant garnies à une extrémité qu'à l'autre.

On se propose, pendant l'Exposition Universelle de Paris, de donner aux Européens des leçons pratiques afin de leur enseigner les diverses manières de préparer des mets exquis avec le maïs. Parmi les choses que les Etats-Unis exposeront à Paris, se trouveront des cuisines pour le maïs, où les visiteurs seront invités à y venir se régaler de gâteaux de maïs avec du syrop d'érable, de "corn pone," espèce de pain fait avec de la farine de maïs, des œufs et du lait, de pudding de maïs, de pain fait avec de la farine de maïs, de maïs en boîte, de "pop corn," espèces de grains de maïs, petits et compacts, qui éclatent spontanément à l'action du feu; et d'autres espèces de mets dont le maïs est le principal ingrédient. On croit, par ces moyens, que beaucoup de personnes viendront étudier les différentes manières d'employer ce produit américain et que les exportations de cette céréale augmenteront considérablement.

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## PRODUCTION DU SUCRE DE CANNE ET DU SUCRE DE BETTERAVE.

D'après des statistiques dignes de foi, la production du sucre de canne du monde, qui jadis provenait des tropiques a, pendant les 60 ans qui viennent de s'écouler, été transférée aux zones tempérées. Les chiffres publiés récemment par le Bureau des Statistiques du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères des Etats-Unis le démontrent. Ces tableaux de statistique montrent, en effet, qu'en 1840, 95 pour cent de la production du sucre du monde provenait de la canne à sucre qui est un produit tropical, mais que 5 pour cent seulement étaient extraits de la betterave qui est un produit de la zone tempérée, pendant qu'en 1899 seulement 34 pour cent de l'approvisionnement du sucre du monde provenaient de la canne à sucre et 66 pour cent des betteraves. Jusqu'à quel point la disparition des esclaves qui existaient dans tous les territoires produisant la canne à sucre au commencement de la période en revue est la cause de cet état de chose, les Economistes et les personnes qui s'occupent de sociologie peuvent seuls le dire; mais c'est un fait que le sucre de canne du monde produit pendant l'année 1899 suppléerait un petit peu plus que les demandes des Etats-Unis seuls, déduction faite de la consommation intérieure des pays dans lesquels il est produit.

La production totale du sucre de canne du monde, d'après les estimations faites par une des principales maisons de commerce de New-York, qui s'occupe spécialement de cette question, est évaluée à 2,862,000 de tonnes, et, sauf quelques exceptions, comprend la production locale pour la consommation des pays partout où elle est connue, tandis que les chiffres du Bureau des Statistiques montrent que le

total des importations du sucre des Etats-Unis se montait, pendant l'année 1899, à 1,964,170 tonnes, de sorte que si tout le sucre de canne du monde produit pendant l'année 1899 était mis ensemble et que l'on en déduisît la consommation locale des pays où il est produit, le restant serait un peu plus qu'égal aux importations des Etats-Unis seuls pendant cette année là. Ou ne doit pas cependant déduire de cet exposé que les Etats-Unis importent, en effet, tout le surplus du sucre de canne du monde.

D'autre part, la consommation du sucre de betterave aux Etats-Unis augmente continuellement et était, pendant l'année fiscale 1899, plus grande que pendant n'importe quelle année précédente dans les annales du pays, à l'exception seulement de l'année 1897, quand les importations furent anormales, par suite des changements survenus dans les tarifs douaniers auxquels cependant on s'attendait. Le total des importations du sucre de betterave pendant l'année fiscale 1899 s'est monté à 723,336,352 livres en dehors d'un total général de 3,517,950,689 livres, de sorte que le sucre de betterave ayant été admis sur les marchés de l'Europe supplée maintenant un cinquième des importations aux Etats-Unis, malgré la proximité des Etats-Unis d'une si grande quantité de territoire où le sucre de canne est produit.

Voici, pour chacun des principaux pays producteurs du monde, le montant, en tonnes, du sucre de canne, pendant l'année 1899-1900: Java, 722,000; Cuba, 400,000; Iles Sandwich, 275,000; Brésil, 175,000; Ile Maurice, 150,000; Australie, 140,000; Louisiane (Etats-Unis), 132,000; tous les autres pays, 868,000; total général, 2,862,000.

Pendant la même année, la quantité de tonnes de sucre de betterave produite dans le monde était comme suit: Allemagne, 1,780,000; Australie, 1,120,000; France, 960,000; Russie, 885,000; Belgique, 290,000; Hollande, 170,000; tous les autres pays, 275,000; total général, 5,480,000.

Le tableau suivant donne la production du monde, en tonnes, du sucre de canne et du sucre de betterave pendant les décades de 1840 à 1900 et le pourcentage de la betterave dans la production totale du monde pour chacune des périodes indiquées.

## PRODUCTION.

	Sucre de canne.	Sucre de betterave.	Total du sucre.	Pour cent suppléé par la betterave.
1840 .....	1,100,000	50,000	1,500,000	4.35
1850 .....	1,200,000	200,000	1,400,000	14.29
1860 .....	1,510,000	389,000	1,899,000	20.43
1870 .....	1,585,000	831,000	2,416,000	34.40
1880 .....	1,852,000	1,402,000	3,254,000	43.08
1890 .....	2,069,000	3,633,000	5,702,000	63.70
1900 .....	2,862,000	5,575,000	8,437,000	66.08

## CONDITION DES AGRICULTEURS DES ETATS-UNIS.

Dans son numéro du 17 mars 1900, le journal, "American Agriculturist," contient un article très intéressant, décrivant les conditions dans lesquelles se trouvent les différentes classes d'agriculteurs aux Etats-Unis et montrant que les fermiers, pris collectivement, n'ont jamais joui d'une aussi grande prospérité. L'"Agriculturist" s'exprime ainsi:

"Le développement merveilleux des conditions agricoles actuelles, comparé à la grande dépression de 1894-1896, est aussi peu apprécié du public en général que ne l'était la condition des agriculteurs pendant la mauvaise saison. Toutefois, on peut dire que les produits des fermes des Etats-Unis rapporteront aux fermiers plus de \$1,600,000,000 en sus de ce qu'ils ont donné pendant les mauvaises années de 1894-1896. Ces chiffres démontrent une hausse moyenne, dans la valeur, de 31 pour cent. Ces valeurs montrent une augmentation de 6 pour cent, ou près de \$400,000,000 sur les chiffres que le recensement a donné en 1889, qui était une période assez prospère. \* \* \*

"Les récoltes des produits de première nécessité montrent une valeur totale, pour la saison passée, d'environ 32 pour cent de plus que pendant les mauvaises années de 1895-1896, ou une augmentation de \$521,000,000. Les autres produits, y compris la grande industrie de la volaille, les récoltes des denrées principales plus petites, ainsi que toutes les autres sources des revenus de la ferme (y compris les produits consommés par la famille, etc.), montrent un gain d'environ 20 pour cent \* \* \* ou un total de \$200,000,000. Ces chiffres peuvent paraître énormes aux personnes non initiées, mais quand on pense qu'un simple produit de volaille (y compris les œufs) donne un revenu de plus de \$300,000,000 par an, on comprendra beaucoup mieux, que nos statistiques ne sont pas exagérées.

"Les produits provenant du bétail, y compris le lait, le beurre, le fromage, les pores et leurs produits, les bêtes à cornes, les moutons, les brebis et les agneaux, les cuirs et les peaux, l'augmentation des chevaux, des mules, etc., se montent à environ la moitié de la valeur du bétail au commencement de chaque année. Cette conclusion est basée sur des investigations sérieuses faites pendant une série d'années. Les terres des fermes, les bâtiments, etc., qui avaient été si dépréciés pendant les mauvaises années, ont plus que recouvré leurs premières valeurs. Avec les nouvelles fermes et les améliorations qui y ont été faites, la valeur des propriétés agricoles se monte probablement aujourd'hui à \$14,500,000,000, soit, d'après le recensement fédéral, une augmentation de \$2,500,000,000 et de \$1,220,000,000 en juin 1890.

"La valeur du bétail qui se trouvait dans les fermes pendant le mois de janvier 1900 était \$2,558,000,000, soit une augmentation de \$698,000,000 sur 1895-96, ou 27 pour cent. \* \* \*



“Les fonds placés dans l'agriculture des Etats-Unis représentent actuellement une valeur de \$17,550,000,000, soit environ \$3,300,000,000 de plus que ceux qui étaient engagés pendant la période des plus grandes dépressions ou un gain d'environ \$1,600,000,000 de plus que les hautes bases comparatives des valeurs indiquées par le recensement fédéral.

“Le nombre des fermes a augmenté d'environ 400,000 pendant les 10 années passées, contre 600,000 dans les décades précédentes, soit une augmentation de près de 1,500,000 de 1870 à 1880. Actuellement, la plupart de ces fermes, 69 pour cent, sont occupées par leurs propriétaires, ce qui n'était pas le cas il y a dix ans, les locataires occupant aujourd'hui 31 pour cent contre 32 pour cent en 1890. Un autre fait remarquable est que le nombre des fermes hypothéquées qui sont occupées par leurs propriétaires n'est certainement pas plus grand qu'il y a 10 ans. Dire exactement combien de dettes hypothécaires ont été payées depuis 1890, cela est presque impossible \* \* \* mais la valeur la plus approximative que nous puissions donner est maintenant de \$300,000,000 moindre qu'il y a 10 ans. Les fermes ont augmenté de valeur pendant que le montant des hypothèques actuelles est moins grand qu'autrefois. Cela démontre que la plupart des hypothèques qui grèvent aujourd'hui les fermes ont été faites dans le but d'acheter la ferme ou d'y apporter des améliorations.”

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## L'INDUSTRIE AMÉRICAINE AU POINT DE VUE FRANÇAIS.

D'après la “Revue du Commerce Extérieur” du 17 mars, c'est un fait absolument établi que l'importance grandissante du commerce d'exportation des Etats-Unis rivalise déjà avec celui de la Grande-Bretagne et le dépassera très probablement dans un petit nombre d'années. On commence à le savoir même en France. Mais ce qu'on ne sait pas encore c'est que l'importance et le succès des récoltes ne constituent qu'un accident dans ce développement menaçant pour les industries européennes. En effet, l'essor des exportations de produits manufacturés aux Etats-Unis devient de plus en plus intense. Ce n'est plus par la masse de ses blés, de ses salaisons, de son coton et de ses pétroles que l'exploitation américaine constitue une masse redoutable pour les grandes puissances commerciales du monde—l'Angleterre, l'Allemagne, la France, etc.—c'est bel et bien par l'importance des produits exportés à l'état de fini par les industriels ou par les négociants yankees.

Les exportations de produits agricoles ont baissé de \$70,000,000, et malgré cette baisse l'exportation américaine a été plus considérable qu'en 1898, où les mauvaises récoltes de l'Europe en 1897 lui avaient permis d'atteindre une hauteur démesurée et sans précédent.

Cette augmentation imprévue est due surtout au mouvement des objets fabriqués. De \$308,000,000 en 1898, ils ont atteint presque \$381,000,000 en 1899.

Les Etat-Unis exportent maintenant à peu près autant de produits manufacturés que l'industrie française. Le fait est autant plus digne d'être noté que jusqu'alors la puissance d'exportation de l'Amérique dépendait exclusivement de l'étendue de son territoire et de l'importance de ses cultures.

Les diverses circonstances qui ont contribué à ce résultat sont: premièrement, le développement exceptionnel des affaires en 1899; deuxièmement, la prospérité sans exemple de l'industrie métallurgique, la déclaration de la guerre du Transvaal qui a limité les forces exportatrices de la Grande-Bretagne; troisièmement, il faut signaler l'emploi probable des prix de 1898 à 1899; enfin, les importations des Etats-Unis dans leurs nouvelles possessions des Antilles et des Philippines.

Au milieu de leur prospérité grandissante, les Allemands se préoccupent plus encore de la rivalité industrielle de l'Amérique que de la résistance des manufacturiers britanniques.

Voici, en effet, la marche successive des exportations de produits manufacturés américains depuis les dernières années, et leur part proportionnelle dans l'ensemble des exportations spéciales:

Année.	Valeur.	Pour cent.
1893-94 .....	\$183, 718, 000	21. 1
1894-95 .....	183, 596, 000	23. 2
1895-96 .....	228, 571, 000	26. 5
1896-97 .....	227, 286, 000	26. 9
1897 .....	279, 617, 000	25. 9
1898 .....	307, 925, 000	25. 9
1899 .....	380, 788, 000	30. 4

## MAUVAISE RÉCOLTE DES OLIVES DANS LE SUD DE L'EUROPE.

De tous les avis qui ont été recus jusqu'à présent, dit le "Bulletin Commercial," il résulte que la récolte des olives a été mauvaise dans les pays de l'Europe méridionale et que le rendement n'atteindra pas 30 pour cent d'une récolte moyenne. En Italie, et quelque peu aussi en France et en Espagne, la mauvaise récolte est due en grande partie aux ravages causés par une sorte de mouche, connue sous le nom de *mosca olearia*. Cette mouche dépose ses œufs sur les fruits verts, et les larves, qui ne tardent pas à éclore, détruisent complètement l'olive ou l'abîment au point que l'huile qu'on en extrait devient de mauvaise qualité et ne peut guère servir comme huile de table.

Pendant les dernières années, le prix de l'huile d'olive avait considérablement baissé et était tombé, l'année dernière, à 1 franc et 1 fr.

20 le kilogramme; l'huile de Tunisie ne valait même que 75 centimes le kilogramme.

Depuis l'annonce de la mauvaise récolte, les prix sont remontés à 2 francs le kilogramme environ pour les bonnes huiles européennes et à 1 fr. 45 c. pour l'huile de Tunisie. Quelques uns prétendent même que ces prix subiront encore bientôt une nouvelle hausse, lorsque la saison sera un peu plus favorable à la consommation de l'huile de table.

## RÉCOLTE DE L'AVOINE DANS LE MONDE.

Voici, d'après Mr. BROOMHALL, comment s'est répartie la récolte de l'avoine dans le monde pendant les trois dernières années:

Pays.	1899.	1898.	1897.
	<i>Boisseaux.</i>	<i>Boisseaux.</i>	<i>Boisseaux.</i>
Etats-Unis.....	785,000,000	731,000,000	699,000,000
Russie.....	740,000,000	580,000,000	560,000,000
Allemagne.....	296,000,000	336,000,000	280,000,000
France.....	265,000,000	270,000,000	221,000,000
Autriche-Hongrie.....	182,000,000	180,000,000	150,000,000
Grande-Bretagne.....	160,000,000	172,000,000	164,000,000
Canada.....	117,000,000	110,000,000	97,000,000
Suède.....	65,000,000	68,000,000	56,000,000
Danemark.....	35,000,000	39,000,000	33,900,000
Belgique.....	19,000,000	23,000,000	28,000,000
Italie.....	16,000,000	18,000,000	19,000,000
Pays-Bas.....	16,000,000	17,000,000	15,000,000
Roumanie.....	6,000,000	17,000,000	10,000,000
Bulgarie et Roumélie orientale.....	5,000,000	7,000,000	4,000,000
Algérie.....	3,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000
Total.....	2,710,000,000	2,576,000,000	2,340,900,000

## ADMISSION DES PUBLICATIONS À L'EXPOSITION UNIVERSELLE DE PARIS.

Le "Deutsch Export Zeitung" dit que le Directeur Général de l'Exposition Universelle de Paris a décidé, en réponse à la requête qui lui a été adressée, que toutes les publications, avec ou sans illustrations, ayant rapport à l'Exposition seront admises exemptes de tout droit dans les douanes françaises aux conditions suivantes:

1°. L'expédition du pays d'origine devra être faite seulement à l'exposant ou à son représentant.

2°. Les publications devront être strictement d'un caractère individuel, c'est à dire, qu'elles devront se rapporter seulement aux produits exposés par l'importateur. Les catalogues généraux et les prospectus, tel que ceux qui se rapportent à toute une section de l'Exposition, ne jouiront pas des mêmes privilèges.

3°. Ces publications devront être distribuées gratis dans toute l'enceinte de l'Exposition.

## RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

### CONSTRUCTION D'UN PORT COMMERCIAL À SAN BOROMBON.

D'après le "Moniteur Officiel" du 22 mars, la loi votée par le Congrès Argentin pour la construction d'un port de commerce dans la baie de San Borombon, près du 36° parallèle de latitude sud, sur la côte de la République Argentine, a été promulguée le 18 janvier dernier.

D'après cette loi, ces concessionnaires pourront disposer de 1,500 mètres courants sur les bords de l'Atlantique, pour l'établissement du port, qui comprendra une série de quais, avec voies ferrées, grues hydrauliques, magasins, etc., et deviendront propriétaires de tous les terrains qu'ils gagneront sur l'Océan par l'exécution des travaux.

Le port devra être construit pour recevoir des navires calant jusqu'à trente pieds, et les droits d'entrée, de séjour, le magasinage, etc., que les concessionnaires percevront sur les navires faisant usage de ce port, seront soumis à l'approbation du gouvernement national, et ne pourront, en aucun cas, être supérieurs à ceux perçus pour les mêmes services dans le port de Buenos Ayres.

A l'expiration du terme de la concession, qui est de 99 ans, le port et ses annexes deviendront la propriété de l'Etat.

### LA PRODUCTION ET L'EXPORTATION DU SUCRE.

Voici un tableau de la production, de l'exportation et de la consommation du sucre dans la République Argentine de 1896 à 1899:

Années.	Produc- tion.	Exporta- tion.	Consom- mation.
	<i>Tonnes.</i>	<i>Tonnes.</i>	<i>Tonnes.</i>
1896.....	170,000	25,000	45,000
1897.....	105,000	42,800	62,200
1898.....	76,000	21,700	54,300
1899.....	80,000	14,290	65,710

## BRÉSIL.

### EXPOSITION DE PRODUITS.

Le "Brazilian Times" annonce qu'une exposition des produits de l'Etat de Rio Grande do Sul sera ouverte à Porto-Alepe le 15 novembre prochain, date du onzième anniversaire de la proclamation de la République.

Elle comprendra trois sections:

- I. Produits agricoles, machines agricoles et accessoires.
- II. Produits industriels.
- III. Applications des sciences et des arts.

## CHILI.

**ÉTABLISSEMENT D'UNE FABRIQUE DE FAÏENCE BLANCHE.**

DON CARLOS LAMAS GARCIA a présenté au Congrès une requête à l'effet d'obtenir la garantie de 5 pour cent d'intérêt sur un capital de \$20,000, pour l'installation dans le pays d'une fabrique de faïence blanche. Il s'agit d'un article que l'on peut considérer comme de première nécessité et dont la consommation est énorme, puisque son importation dernière s'est élevée à \$589,931.

La presque totalité de cette importation vient actuellement d'Allemagne et d'Angleterre; la France, la Belgique et les Etats-Unis en importent aussi, mais en moins grande quantité.

L'industrie de la faïence blanche peut prospérer au Chili, parce que l'on trouve dans le pays du kaolin et des argiles, qui sont les matières premières. Cependant cette industrie ne peut pas réussir sans la protection du gouvernement, soit par l'absence de capitaux, par le manque d'ouvriers, ou parce que les importateurs monopolisent le marché.

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ETATS-UNIS.**COMMERCE EXTERIEUR DES ETATS-UNIS PENDANT LE MOIS DE FÉVRIER 1900.**

Le mois de février 1900 a été le plus remarquable de tous les mois de février dans les annales du commerce extérieur du pays. Les exportations pendant ce mois, d'après les rapports publiés le 24 mars par le Ministère des Finances, se sont montées journellement à 5,000,000, et dépassaient de plus de 25 pour cent le total de n'importe quel mois de février précédent. Ceci est non seulement exact, mais l'excédent des exportations sur les importations pendant le mois de février 1900 a été le plus fort qui ait jamais été constaté dans n'importe quel mois de février des années précédentes. Février est un mois où les importations généralement sont considérables, et il arrive souvent qu'elles égalent ou excèdent les exportations; conséquemment un excédent de plus de \$50,000,000 d'exportations sur les importations pendant le mois de février 1900 doit être mentionné comme un fait très remarquable, quoique les importations se montant à plus de \$68,000,000 aient été un peu plus grandes que celles de n'importe quelle année précédente, à l'exception de l'année 1893.

On se rendra bien mieux compte de l'importance relative des chiffres du mois de février 1900, quand on constatera que la moyenne des exportations pendant le mois de février pour les dix années qui viennent de s'écouler n'était que de \$76,000,000, tandis que pour le mois de février

1900 les exportations s'élevaient à \$119,389,902. D'un autre côté, la moyenne des importations pendant le mois de février pour les décades précédentes était de \$61,000,000, soit un excédent moyen d'exportations sur les importations pour le mois de février pendant cette période de \$15,000,000, tandis que pour le mois de février 1900 l'excédent dépassait la somme de \$50,000,000.

Voici le sommaire détaillé publié par le Ministère des Finances:

## IMPORTATIONS.

	1900.	1899.
Denrées alimentaires et animaux.....	\$16,254,153	\$17,616,759
Articles bruts entrant dans les différents procédés de l'industrie du pays.....	25,936,601	19,783,058
Articles entièrement ou partiellement manufacturés, destinés comme matériaux dans les manufactures et les arts mécaniques.....	6,732,437	4,091,413
Articles manufacturés pour la consommation.....	10,734,428	9,520,993
Articles de luxe, etc.....	9,116,531	9,246,229
Total.....	68,774,150	60,258,452

## EXPORTATIONS.

Produits agricoles.....	\$75,097,746	\$62,378,985
Produits des manufactures.....	34,226,128	24,489,860
Produits des mines.....	3,134,022	1,889,826
Produits des forêts.....	3,548,209	2,741,927
Produits des pêches.....	389,560	253,089
Produits divers.....	946,779	431,685
Total des exportations du pays.....	117,336,444	92,185,372
Total des exportations étrangères.....	2,053,458	1,651,779
Total général des exportations.....	119,389,902	93,837,151

Des importations du mois de février 1900, 44.66 pour cent étaient exempts des droits de douane, contre 46.58 pour cent en 1899. Les droits de douane perçus pendant le mois de février 1900 se sont montés à \$19,882,253, contre \$16,921,572 pendant le mois de février 1899.

Des marchandises étrangères exportées, 69.46 pour cent étaient exempts des droits de douane, contre 43.97 pour cent des mêmes exportations pendant le mois de février 1899.

## PRODUCTION DU SUCRE D'ÉRABLE.

Le procédé employé pour manufacturer le sucre et le sirop d'érable est très intéressant. Ces produits sont manufacturés de la sève de l'érable à sucre qui se trouve dans le nord des Etats-Unis et dans le sud du Canada. On connaît plus de 30 espèces de ces arbres, dont 10 variétés différentes se trouvent aux Etats-Unis. L'érable à sucre qui donne la meilleure sève se recommande aussi par les précieuses qualités de son bois que les ébénistes estiment être de la plus grande valeur après celui du chêne. On obtient de son tronc deux espèces d'érable, "curly and birds-eye," c'est-à-dire, dont les fibres se détour-

nent en forme de boucles et présentent parfois de petits nœuds. L'érable est aussi très apprécié pour l'ombrage qu'il donne, a une tige qui s'élève en moyenne à 75 pieds, sur laquelle poussent des branches très étendues couvertes d'un feuillage touffu. Les Etats qui produisent le sirop et le sucre d'érable sont donnés dans l'ordre suivant: Vermont, Massachusetts, et Ohio.

La plupart des plus grands champs d'érable à sucre, "sugar camp," ou "sugar bushes," se trouvent dans certaines sections de l'ouest de l'Ohio, appelés "Western reserve." Le terme "sugar bush," strictement parlant, s'applique seulement aux érables d'un certain territoire, mais est ordinairement employé comme un synonyme de "sugar camp." Il y a un quart de siècle, le système employé pour extraire le sucre était très primitif. La sève des arbres coulait à travers des tubes en bois et tombait dans des baquets formés de morceaux de bois de 3 pieds de long. Delà, la sève était transportée dans de grandes marmites au moyen de deux seaux en bois suspendus à une gorge que le propriétaire du camp portait sur ses épaules. L'appareil où bouillait la sève consistait en deux chaudières en fer suspendues par des chaînes à une barre en bois, et on employait comme combustible des morceaux de bois ou des branches d'arbres émondées. De cette manière, la sève était convertie en sucre et en sirop au milieu des feuilles, des cendres et de toutes les matières sales.

Actuellement, une grande "sugar bush" contient de 800 à 1,000 érables. Au commencement de la saison, qui a lieu généralement dans le mois de février, on fait dans chaque arbre au moins, un trou qui a une profondeur d'un demi-pouce. Dans un arbre qui a 3 pieds de diamètre, on peut percer jusqu'à six trous sans l'endommager, mais dans chaque arbre d'une grosseur ordinaire on ne peut en percer que deux, de 2 pouces de profondeur. On introduit dans chacune de ces ouvertures un tube en métal, auquel est accroché un seau en fer blanc et dans lequel coule la sève. La rapidité avec laquelle se remplissent ces récipients dépend entièrement de la température et la meilleure est quand les nuits de gelées sont suivies de journées chaudes. La saison peut durer quelques jours ou deux mois, mais généralement sa durée est de six semaines environ, finissant les derniers jours de mars. La sève est alors recueillie et transportée, sur de petits traîneaux, dans des réservoirs pouvant contenir un muid ou plus, et de ces derniers, en arrivant à l'usine, passe par un tube en caoutchouc, dans un réservoir d'accumulation, qui a ordinairement 18 pieds de long, 4 pieds de large et 2 pieds de profondeur.

De ce réservoir, la sève passe, au moyen d'un canal d'alimentation automatique, dans un appareil évaporatoire qui, une fois suffisamment plein, arrête le flot qui recommence à couler au fur et à mesure des progrès de l'évaporation. Le fond de cet évaporatoire est formé d'une succession de rainures, autour desquelles la sève passe pendant

que le feu brûle au dessous, et c'est ainsi que l'évaporation se fait. Quand le thermomètre de l'appareil évaporatoire atteint 218° Fahrenheit, une soupape s'ouvre dans un autre compartiment où le liquide arrive converti en sirop de première qualité, chaque gallon pesant 12 livres. Le sirop est ensuite transvasé dans une cuve où le sucre s'y dépose pendant que, au moyen d'un robinet, un peu éloigné du fond de la cuve, on tire le sirop pur qui est mis alors dans des boîtes de fer blanc étiquetées. Les lois de l'Ohio prescrivent que les fabricants de sirop d'érable doivent coller sur chaque boîte une étiquette garantissant la pureté de l'article et indiquant aussi le nom du fabricant.

Quand on fait le sucre d'érable, on continue l'évaporation jusqu'à ce que le sirop, quand il est placé sur un morceau de glace, ait la consistance de la cire, ce qui est la preuve qu'il est prêt à être mis dans un moule.

Le rendement moyen d'un érable est de un gallon de sirop environ. On a vu un érable ayant six pieds de diamètre, ce qui est une dimension rare, produire un baril de sève en 24 heures. Le sirop d'érable se vend de 50 cents à 1 dollar le gallon, selon la qualité et la saison. La production du sucre et du sirop d'érable dans l'Etat de Ohio s'est élevée, en 1899, à la somme de \$1,250,000.

#### STATISTIQUES DE L'ACIER BESSEMER.

Le Bulletin de la "American Iron and Steel Association" a fait une collection des statistiques des aciéries des Etats-Unis relatives aux lingots d'acier Bessemer et aux rails d'acier Bessemer. La production totale de ces lingots en 1899 se montait à 7,586,354 grosses tonnes, contre 6,609,017 grosses tonnes en 1898, soit une augmentation de 977,337 tonnes ou plus de 14 pour cent. L'Etat de Pennsylvanie a produit 3,968,779 tonnes; l'Ohio, 1,679,237 tonnes; l'Illinois, 1,211,246 tonnes, et d'autres Etats 727,092 tonnes. Pendant l'année 1899, la production a été plus grande que pendant n'importe quelle année précédente. La production des rails d'acier Bessemer était de 2,240,767 tonnes, contre 1,955,427 tonnes en 1898. Le Journal "Iron Age" estime que la production totale des rails de toutes espèces pendant l'année 1899 était de 2,300,000 tonnes, mais de petites quantités de rails en fer sont maintenant fabriquées aux Etats-Unis.

Parmi les incidents qui ont accompagné les prix élevés récents et continuels du fer et de l'acier, comme l'a fait remarquer le journal "Bradstreet's," sont les prix obtenus pour les rails d'acier usés ou défectueux. Il n'y a pas longtemps, on n'obtenait seulement pour la refonte que \$10 par tonne, tandis que maintenant on obtient pour une tonne \$25 à \$30. Ainsi on peut voir l'anomalie étrange des companies de chemin de fer vendant le matériel usé à quelques établissements pour



un prix beaucoup plus élevé la tonne que les mêmes rails ont coûté quand ils furent achetés pour la première fois.

#### NOUVELLE PLANTE À TANIN.

La “Deutsch-Amerikanische Gewerbe-Zeitung” publie les renseignements suivants sur une nouvelle plante à tanin qui pousse en abondance sur les bords du Mississippi et de ses affluents. Cette plante serait susceptible de remplacer, dans les tanneries, l'écorce de chêne et les autres substances qui servent à la fabrication des cuirs. On l'appelle Western tannin plant (*Polygonum amphibium*). La quantité qu'on récolte le long du grand fleuve américain serait suffisante pour alimenter les différentes tanneries du monde entier. La Western tannin plant renferme 18 pour cent de tanin, tandis que l'écorce de chêne n'en contient que 10 à 12 pour cent; il s'en suit qu'à quantité égale, elle peut servir à tanner 50 pour cent de cuir en plus. La récolte en est annuelle. Elle se fait comme celle du foin; on fauche, on laisse sécher et on tasse ensuite. Les plantes bien sèches sont pressées à la machine hydraulique, puis réunies et serrées en balles de façon à permettre le transport dans les conditions ordinaires. Le mode d'emploi de cette nouvelle plante est le même que celui de l'écorce de chêne, avec cette différence, cependant, que le cuir traité au moyen du nouveau produit américain est plus tendre et plus fin, tout en étant plus solide et plus brillant. A Lincoln, dans l'Etat de Nebraska, il y a depuis quelque temps une manufacture qui prépare, en réalisant de gros bénéfices, cette nouvelle matière première. Elle en expédie des chargements importants à Chicago où des maisons très considérables se proposent d'exploiter cette nouvelle méthode de tannage.

#### SORGHO ET SES SUBSTITUTS.

Le Journal “Farm Implement News” dit que les deux tiers de la récolte du sorgho du monde poussent dans les comtés de Douglas, Cates, Moultrie et Egar, dans l'Etat de l'Illinois. Cette récolte est incertaine, et pour la faire venir avec succès et obtenir une moisson abondante, cela exige une grande habileté et des connaissances approfondies. Il se consomme annuellement 30,000 tonnes de sorgho, et il y a quelques années les comtés ci-dessus mentionnés ont produit dans une saison 28,000 tonnes. D'après le rapport du directeur de la ferme modèle de l'Université de l'Illinois, le sorgho coûte en moyenne \$50 la tonne et se vend au prix moyen de \$70. Il s'est vendu, cependant, à un prix aussi bas que \$30. Trois acres de terre se trouvant dans des conditions avantageuses sont nécessaires pour produire une tonne de cette partie du stock que l'on emploie pour faire les balais et qui est la partie de la plante qui, placée au sommet de la tige, est formée par la réunion des graines et des fleurs disposées en épi comme celui du

maïs. On dit que la récolte de 1899 a été bien au dessous de la moyenne, et que conséquemment le prix élevé du produit a obligé d'en chercher un autre pouvant remplacer avec avantage ce dernier.

Jadis, de nombreuses fibres ont été essayées, en partie à cause de la dépense et en partie parce que le balai ordinaire est rarement employé dans les rudes travaux. On a mis des rejetons très coriaces dans des liquides afin d'augmenter leur souplesse en même temps que leur résistance. Quoique ces derniers aient été trouvés assez utiles pour les gros ouvrages, ils ont cependant été jugés trop lourds pour les usages ordinaires. Des fils en métal ont été aussi essayés mais abandonnés, ne pouvant servir que pour les genres de balayage les plus durs. On vient de trouver une fibre de bois qui promet de remplacer avantageusement les brosses faites avec le sorgho. Ce nouveau substitut est fait avec les rejetons du noyer auxquels on a fait subir une certaine préparation afin de les rendre plus flexibles. On dit qu'un balai fabriqué en partie avec cette fibre et en partie avec le sorgho, dans les proportions de 1 à 2, durera davantage que trois balais ordinaires et coûtera seulement les deux tiers environ autant. Une fabrique, dans la ville de Chicago, manufacture ce nouveau genre de balai, et on dit que les commandes qu'elle reçoit sont si grandes qu'elle ne peut y faire face.

#### LA POPULATION INDIENNE.

Dans un supplément à son rapport annuel, le Directeur des Affaires Indiennes des États-Unis encadre les rapports des différentes agences Indiennes. Les documents montrent qu'il y a dans le pays 297,905 Indiens, dont 95,679 sont vêtus comme les blancs et 31,923 portent des vêtements moitié Indiens, moitié civilisés. Ceux capables de lire se chiffrent à 42,597, et ceux qui peuvent converser en anglais à 53,314. Le nombre d'habitations construites pour les résidents Indiens est de 25,236, dont 1,153 furent bâties pendant l'année 1899. Il y a eu pendant l'année 4,237 naissances et 5,253 décès. Il existait 348 églises avec 31,656 membres Indiens. Les sommes d'argent déboursées pendant l'année par les sociétés religieuses et autres pour l'instruction publique et les cultes se montaient respectivement à \$277,531 et \$119,407.

Le Gouvernement a sur le territoire réservé aux Indiens 240 pensionnats et écoles qui emploient plus de 2,000 professeurs. Le travail est divisé, une partie de la journée étant consacrée à l'étude et l'autre aux travaux industriels. On apprend aux jeunes filles à devenir de bonnes maîtresses de maison et on les initie à tous les travaux du ménage, tandis qu'on enseigne aux jeunes gens l'agriculture et les arts industriels.

En dehors des écoles sus-nommées et qui sont situées près des habitations indiennes, il en existe plusieurs autres où ils peuvent acquérir

une instruction supérieure et des connaissances scientifiques. Parmi ces institutions se trouvent: l'Ecole Carlisle, l'Institut Haskell, et l'Institut Hampton. Depuis l'établissement de ces institutions, il y a quelques années, un grand nombre d'élèves en sont sortis gradués. Quelques Indiens, malheureusement, sont retournés à leurs anciennes manières de vivre, mais, par suite de l'instruction pratique qu'ils y ont reçue, sont employés comme instituteurs, cuisiniers, directrices, couturières, etc., en dehors de quelques-uns qui se sont lancés dans les affaires commerciales.

### L'INDUSTRIE DU LIN.

La "Minneapolis Tribune" rapporte que l'industrie du lin dans les Etats du Nord donne les plus grandes espérances. En 1899 on a ensemencé dans le Nord-Dakota près de 600,000 acres de lin et récolté environ 7,200,000 boisseaux de graine. Le prix de la graine de lin ayant une tendance à la hausse, les cultivateurs furent bien rémunérés; mais pratiquement, il n'y avait aucun marché pour la paille, ce produit étant presque aussi inutile que la paille du blé, une grande quantité étant brûlée comme rebut.

Sur la recommandation de quelques compagnies de Boston, Mass., et de Londres, Angleterre, qui manufacturent la fibre de cette plante, une filature de lin, ayant une capacité de 100 tonnes par mois, a été érigée dans la ville de Fargo. Cette filature permettra aux agriculteurs de l'Etat d'écouler les produits qui jadis étaient inutiles; de sorte que les graines et la paille pouvant être vendues, les cultivateurs seront grandement récompensés et le développement de la culture de ce produit sera assuré. La filature Fargo va faire des expériences dans la fabrication de papier à écrire de première qualité, et on croit que si elles réussissent, toutes sortes de toilerie seront aussi fabriquées.

### LE PLUS GRAND CHAMP DE BLÉ DE LA CALIFORNIE.

Le "Export Implement Age" rapporte que le plus grand champ de blé de la Californie a une superficie de 25,000 acres ou 40 milles carrés. Ce champ immense de blé est situé sur les bords de la rivière San Joaquin, près du bourg Clovis, dans le comté de Madera, quoique une partie de cette terre se trouve dans le comté de Fresno. La personne qui gère cette propriété (ranch) se nomme CLOVIS COLE. On dit que la situation de ce champ est idéale, qu'il est plat, avec une pente douce vers la rivière.

Les contours de ce champ forment presque un carré parfait, chacun des côtés ayant un petit peu plus de 6 milles de longueur, et quand il fait beau on peut le voir de point en point. Aucun chemin ne traverse ce champ dont on va utiliser chaque pied carré pour la culture de cette céréale. Les premiers travaux furent commencés au mois de juillet

1899, mais le labourage des terres ne fut terminé que deux mois plus tard. La moisson sera un travail d'hercule et pour la faire on aura besoin d'employer 200 hommes, 1,000 chevaux et un grand nombre de machines dont le poids sera de plusieurs tonnes.

#### **ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'ÉLEVAGE DU BÉTAIL.**

L'Association internationale pour l'élevage du bétail (International Live Stock Association), qui ouvrira une exposition dans la ville de Chicago, du 1<sup>er</sup> au 8 décembre 1900, annonce que la classification préliminaire est faite et que la liste des prix est prête à être distribuée. On peut se procurer des exemplaires de cette publication en s'adressant à l'“International Live Stock Exposition, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Ill., U. S. A.”

La direction de cette exposition annonce aussi qu'elle a l'assurance que le Mexique, les Républiques de l'Amérique du Sud et plusieurs pays européens y seront représentés. Plusieurs milliers de dollars seront distribués comme prix.

#### **CULTURE DU CAOUTCHOUC DANS LES ILES SANDWICH.**

On croit que le sol de l'une ou plusieurs des Iles Sandwich est propre à la culture du caoutchouc, et on va faire des expériences pour établir la réalité de ce fait. On rapporte que le Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis va expédier cette année, à Hawaii une grande quantité d'arbres à caoutchouc.

#### **FAITS DIVERS.**

Pendant l'année 1900, on verra sur les marchés beaucoup plus de citrons de Californie qu'autrefois. On rapporte que la récolte est beaucoup plus abondante, que la qualité du fruit est bien meilleure et que l'emballage sera fait avec beaucoup plus de soins. L'histoire est la même pour l'industrie des citrons de ce pays qu'elle l'était pour les autres fruits. Pendant les dernières années, les prunes, les raisins, les figes, etc., provenant de l'étranger, ainsi que presque tous les autres fruits secs, étaient consommés exclusivement aux Etats-Unis; mais la Californie produit aujourd'hui la plupart de ces articles qui sont si non meilleur, du moins aussi bons que les fruits étrangers. L'industrie du citron est encore à son enfance. Cette année la verra s'établir sur des bases solides, et comme la récolte augmente, les Etats-Unis s'approvisionneront de citrons sur la côte du Pacifique.

Dans le but de conserver les arbres et les arbrisseaux de l'île de Puerto Rico, le Gouverneur Général DAVIS vient de faire paraître un ordre défendant d'abattre ou de détruire les arbres, les arbrisseaux ou quelque bois vivant que ce soit appartenant au domaine public de cette île.

Le trois-mâts en Acier, “Ancona,” de Liverpool, est arrivé à Boston le 29 mars 1900, avec une cargaison de chanvre, 150 jours après son

départ de Manille. Ce chargement consiste en 18,300 balles et est la plus grande quantité qui ait jamais été apportée des Iles Philippines sur un navire des Etats-Unis. “Depuis le départ de l’Ancona” de Cebu, le prix du chanvre a haussé énormément. Au moment de son départ, la cargaison valait \$400,000, mais au moment de son arrivée à Boston la valeur avait augmenté et atteignait le chiffre de \$800,000.

La “Belize Royal Mail and Central American Steamship Company,” au capital de \$100,000, vient de se former dans la ville de Jersey. Ses vapeurs toucheront aux ports des Etats-Unis, Belize et à ceux des autres Républiques de l’Amérique Centrale.

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## HAÏTI.

### EXPLOITATIONS AGRICOLES.

Le Bureau doit à l’amabilité de Monsieur GEORGES SYLVAIN de Port au-Prince, membre honoraire correspondant de l’Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines, l’intéressant article suivant ayant trait à l’établissement de nouvelles entreprises dans l’île de la Gonâve.

L’île de La Gonâve, dit Mr. SYLVAIN, est située dans le golfe du même nom à l’entrée de la Baie de Port-au-Prince. Elle fait partie du territoire de la République de Haïti. Sa superficie est de 50 milles de longueur environ, sur  $15\frac{1}{2}$  de largeur. Aussi grande que la Martinique, elle est plus montagneuse. Les Espagnols qui, après l’occupation, la considéraient comme stérile et dépourvue d’eau, la négligèrent, au point qu’elle servit longtemps de refuge aux Indiens aborigènes, traqués de toutes parts par ces insatiables chercheurs d’or. Sous la domination française, il y eut dans l’île plusieurs établissements, entre autres des cotonneries assez prospères en 1787. Mais ce qui alors, comme aujourd’hui, donnait à la Gonâve une importance exceptionnelle et la faisait maintenir dans les réserves domaniales du roi, c’étaient ses richesses forestières. L’exploitation, entamée en 1787, fut interrompue par la guerre en 1791. Elle n’a jamais été reprise depuis, sauf sur le littoral, de 1859 à 1865. Une société agricole et industrielle a obtenu de l’Etat la ferme de la Gonâve pour 60 ans moyennant une redevance de 10 pour cent sur le produit de ses entreprises. La société est anonyme, au capital de \$600,000. Chaque action est de \$100 qui seront souscrites graduellement par appels de \$10. Les concessionnaires se sont réservés 3,000 actions libérées, sans intérêt. Les 3,000 actions en numéraire produiront seules un intérêt de 6 pour cent.

Déjà une compagnie américaine, représentée par M. KENNETH MACLEOD et dirigée par M. le Colonel J. C. CAMPBELL, a conclu avec cette société un contrat pour la coupe d’une partie des bois précieux dont l’île est couverte. A La Gonâve on trouve, en effet, à profusion, l’acajou, l’ébénier, le cèdre, le bois de rose, le bois marbré, le bois de fer, l’amandier des montagnes, l’érable, le chêne, le candelon, l’orme

indigène (*Guazuma ulmifolia*). L'une des plus belles variétés de henné (*agave rigida*, var. *sisalana*) y croît spontanément. Presque tous les bois d'Haïti qui ont figuré à l'Exposition de Chicago ont été tirés de la Gonâve. Mais quelque soient les bénéfices attachés à l'exploitation forestière, ce n'est pas elle qui sollicite notre attention; ce sont les établissements agricoles et industriels que la société s'est engagée à fonder, et qui, si le succès s'en consolidait, ne tarderaient pas à modifier, dans un avenir prochain, la situation économique du pays tout entier. Le sol de la Gonâve, bien arrosé par des sources nombreuses, est un mélange de lave pourrie, de sable, d'argile, de calcaire et d'un humus séculaire. Il se prête avantageusement à la culture des bananes et figues-bananes, des ananas, des limons et citrons, du bois d'Inde, du gingembre, de la vanille et des autres épices, des arbres fruitiers des tropiques et de l'Europe, du caoutchouc, du manioc, etc.

L'industrie textile pourra être développée par l'exploitation de l'agave et du coton. L'abondance des bois de construction permettrait de constituer dans l'île un centre de bâtisses à peu de frais.

L'élevage du porc, et en général du gros et du petit bétail, des chevaux, ânes et mulets, la pêche des grands fonds où foisonnent les tortues de mer, l'exploitation des éponges, la culture de la canne à sucre et du manioc, avec toutes les industries qui s'y rattachent, sont autant d'éléments de prospérité qui, intelligemment mis en valeur, rémunéreront au centuple les capitaux engagés. L'île de La Gonâve jouit d'ailleurs d'un climat sain. Elle est actuellement habitée par une population de quelques centaines de cultivateurs. Les planteurs de la plaine de l'Arcabaie, travailleurs renommés, y ont presque tous des bananeries.

Le port principal, l'Anse-à-Galets, pourrait abriter un grand nombre de navires de fort tonnage. D'après son contrat, la société s'est réservée le droit d'organiser elle-même sa police, sous le contrôle du gouvernement.

Une autre de nos îles adjacentes, l'île à Vache, depuis une vingtaine d'années, alimente de vivres et de laitage le territoire de l'arrondissement de Cayes.

L'île de La Tortue, sous une direction analogue à celle de la Gonâve, va également inaugurer une nouvelle exploitation forestière et agricole. Je ne manquerai pas de vous tenir au courant des résultats obtenus.

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## MEXIQUE.

### LA CULTURE DU CAOUTCHOUC DANS L'ISTHME DE TEHUANTEPEC.

Une riche compagnie américaine vient d'acheter dans les environs de Coatzacoalcos, près de la voie du chemin de fer de Tehuantepec, une vaste étendue de terrains propres à la culture du caoutchouc.

Cette compagnie a fort à faire actuellement pour trouver des travailleurs; les bras manquent malheureusement dans l'isthme de Tehuantepec, aussi offre-t-on \$1.50 par jour et un emplacement pour construire une habitation, à chaque ouvrier qui consentirait à aller travailler sur les terrains de la compagnie.

#### **GRANDE MANUFACTURE DE CHAUSSURES.**

Il est question de créer au Mexique une grande manufacture de chaussures, avec un capital de \$250,000. On estime que cet établissement pourra fabriquer, journellement, mille paires de souliers. La plupart des actionnaires sont Mexicains et presque tout le capital a été souscrit en quelques jours. Les machines nécessaires ont été commandées à l'étranger, et l'on pense faire venir des Etats-Unis un certain nombre d'ouvriers d'élite qui seront les contremaîtres de la nouvelle fabrique.

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### **URUGUAY.**

#### **VOYAGEURS DE COMMERCE DANS L'URUGUAY.**

La meilleure saison pour les voyageurs de commerce étrangers qui désirent visiter l'Uruguay est, paraît-il, la période hivernale, qui s'étend de mai à septembre.

D'après une communication du Consul des Etats-Unis à Montévidéo, les échantillons ne sont pas taxés par la douane uruguayenne, mais les voyageurs doivent néanmoins déposer une garantie, qui leur est remboursée à la sortie.

Les voyageurs de commerce doivent payer une taxe de 100 piastres à leur entrée dans l'Uruguay; autant que possible, ils doivent être munis de passeports. Les frais de séjour pour un mois s'élèvent à environ \$300.

Généralement les voyageurs de commerce étrangers font des arrangements avec des maisons locales, qui disposent d'immeubles pour étaler les échantillons.

Peu de voyageurs visitent les localités de l'intérieur, qui sont d'ordinaire approvisionnées par Montévidéo. Il est à remarquer, d'ailleurs, que 90 pour cent des importations totales de la République entrent par ce port, où se trouvent la plupart des maisons de gros et d'où l'on peut facilement obtenir des renseignements sur la solvabilité des clients.

#### **LA CONVENTION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE.**

Le Gouvernement de la République de l'Uruguay a ratifié la convention postale universelle, l'arrangement concernant le service des mandats de poste, l'arrangement concernant l'intervention de la poste dans

les abonnements aux journaux et publications périodiques, et la convention concernant l'échange des colis postaux signés à Washington, le 15 juin 1897.

## BIBLIOGRAPHIE.

Les livres et les brochures qui seront envoyés au Bureau des Républiques Américaines, et qui contiendront des sujets ou matières traitant des pays de l'Union internationale des Républiques Américaines, seront mentionnés dans le Bulletin Mensuel sous le titre "Bibliographie."

Origine botanique des caoutchoucs et gutta-percha par P. GRÉLAT (1 vol. in-8°, 276 pages. Berger-Levrault, Editeur, 1899.)

Dans ce travail, l'auteur a cherché à réunir le plus grand nombre possible de documents concernant non seulement les plantes productrices de caoutchouc et de gutta, mais les diverses sortes commerciales de ces matières.

Les trois premiers chapitres sont consacrés à l'étude des propriétés et de la composition des caoutchoucs, à l'histoire de leur découverte et de leur exploitation, aux divers modes de récolte et de coagulation usités aujourd'hui dans tous les pays de production. L'auteur examine ensuite, en cherchant à préciser leurs caractères distinctifs, toutes les sortes commerciales de caoutchoucs. Il donne une idée du mouvement commercial actuel et des essais de culture tentés dans les divers pays; il continue par l'étude scientifique des laticifères et du latex; enfin, il décrit sommairement toutes les plantes caoutchoutières actuellement connues, ainsi que celles qui restent encore à déterminer botaniquement et à étudier industriellement.

La deuxième partie de l'ouvrage est une étude de la gutta-percha, conçue, à peu de chose près, sur le même plan. L'auteur termine par l'examen de quelques succédanés de la gutta, en particulier de la balata.

A la réunion annuelle de "The National Educational Association" (Association Nationale de l'Instruction Publique), qui eut lieu dans la ville de Chicago, Mr. le Dr. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER lut un rapport contenant les faits intéressants suivants relatifs à l'instruction publique aux Etats-Unis: Pendant le siècle, l'Etat a considéré comme un devoir de prendre définitivement à sa charge l'instruction publique aux Etats-Unis; conséquemment des sommes énormes sont dépensées dans ce but. Aux Etats-Unis ces dépenses se montent annuellement à \$200,000,000 pour les écoles publiques seules, soit \$2.67 par tête de population. Cette somme est d'environ un dixième du total des richesses de l'Etat de l'Indiana ou de l'Etat du Michigan, comme l'a constaté le recensement de 1890. Dans la Grande-Bretagne et l'Irlande, les sommes que coûtent l'instruction publique se montent à plus de \$88,000,000 ou \$2.20 par tête; en France elles s'élèvent à environ \$58,000,000 ou



\$1.60 par tête; dans l'Empire d'Allemagne elles atteignent la somme de \$108,000,000 ou plus de \$2 par tête.

En conséquence, ces quatre grandes nations, qui sont aujourd'hui à la tête de la civilisation du monde, et qui possèdent une population de près de 200.000.000 d'âmes, dépensent annuellement pour l'instruction publique une somme considérablement plus forte que \$450,000,000. Les dépenses annuelles des Etats-Unis pour les écoles publiques égalent presque le total général des sommes que la Grande-Bretagne, la France et l'Allemagne dépensent pour leurs marines puissantes. Elles sont presque les quatre cinquièmes du total des sommes que la France et l'Allemagne réunies dépensent annuellement pour leurs armées formidables. C'est une somme qui dépasse de plusieurs millions les dépenses ordinaires nettes du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis en 1880. Cette dépense pour les écoles publiques a presque triplé depuis 1870, et pendant cette période a augmenté de \$1.75 à \$2.67 par tête de population, et de \$15.20 à \$18.86 pour chaque élève.

Le numéro du "International Monthly" du mois d'avril 1900 contient un article sur la Neutralisation du Canal de Nicaragua *Neutralization of the Nicaragua Canal* par Mr. JOHN R. PROCTER, Président de la Commission du Service Civil des Etats-Unis. Mr. PROCTER considère le sujet sous trois points de vue différents; d'abord, au point de vue diplomatique; deuxièmement, au point de vue commercial, et enfin au point de vue militaire. Son intention est d'abord de démontrer que la tendance de toutes les négociations nationales ont été constamment dirigées dans un but pacifique et la liberté du commerce du monde. A ce sujet, il discute la Doctrine Monroe qui, dit-il, était d'empêcher que le commerce de cet hémisphère fût circonscrit dans n'importe quelle limite que ce soit par quelque puissance européenne égoïste. Passant à un point de vue commercial, l'auteur fait remarquer que les traités de 1850 et de 1900 avec la Grande-Bretagne sont basés sur la même politique de neutralisation des privilèges commerciaux sur lesquels les Etats-Unis insistent aujourd'hui en Chine.

En ce qui concerne le point de vue militaire de la question, Mr. PROCTER dit que les Etats-Unis n'ont à craindre aucun blocus dans le cas où une guerre éclaterait entre ce gouvernement et n'importe quelle puissance étrangère, depuis que, d'après les clauses du traité de 1900 les Etats-Unis sont pratiquement sans restriction dans l'emploi d'une police militaire et sont protégés par les forces navales les plus puissantes du monde. Mr. PROCTER est certain que si la neutralisation du canal de Suez fut considérée de la plus haute importance pour les intérêts maritimes européens, celle du canal de Nicaragua ou de tout autre isthme sera encore d'un plus grand intérêt pour les mêmes puissances.

L' "Engineer" de Londres, Angleterre, du 23 février 1900, contient un article sur la production du charbon en Amérique (*American*

Coal Production), dont nous extrayons les passages suivants: On estime le rendement du charbon, l'année dernière (1899), à 244,581,275 tonnes de 2,000 livres, équivalant à 218,376,000 longues tonnes, qui forment la base des calculs de la production anglaise, et on trouvera probablement, quand la chambre de commerce jugera à propos de publier les chiffres du Royaume-Uni, que l'Amérique nous a, pour la première fois, dans ses annales, surpassé dans ce cas. D'autre part, le manque de ce combustible en Europe a contraint ce continent à importer du charbon d'Amérique, ce qui n'était, croit-on, jamais arrivé jusqu'ici, excepté dans des circonstances extraordinaires, comme, par exemple, une grève. On doute qu'il y ait un débouché avantageux pour le charbon américain dans cette partie du monde, mais, étant donné le petit approvisionnement disponible ici, les demandes constantes et les prix élevés anormaux, il serait avantageux d'en importer.

On va commencer incessamment la publication d'un nouvel ouvrage qui aura pour titre "El Progreso de México" (Le Progrès du Mexique), auquel collaboreront MM. PORFIRIO PARRA, PEÑA IDIAQUEZ, LARA HARDO, CARLOS DÍAZ, DUFOO, LUIS G. URBINA, AMADO NERVO, CARLOS PEREIRA, JUAN SANCHEZ AZCONA, EUGENIO SANCHEZ, etc., etc., autant de savants et d'écrivains dont la renommée n'est plus à faire et dont les noms suffisent pour en garantir le succès. Cet ouvrage est dédié à Mr. le Président de la République du Mexique. Il sera imprimé à Paris et rédigé en français et en espagnol. De nombreux articles relatifs à toutes les institutions financières, commerciales, industrielles, minières, etc., du pays, le rendront intéressant à tous, aussi bien à l'homme d'affaires, au fonctionnaire public, qu'à l'écrivain ou au publiciste.

Sous le titre "Transmigration d'une Race" (Transplantation of a Race), Mr. le Professeur SHALER a fait paraître dans le "Appleton's Popular Science Monthly" une étude des plus intéressantes sur le nègre en Amérique. Les conclusions auxquelles il arrive sont que les blancs ne peuvent pas, sous les tropics, survivre aux noirs, comme une race, mais que la race des nègres peut s'acclimater dans le nord et y devenir générative, quand elle y est transportée. L'auteur, d'après des connaissances personnelles, fait une analyse du nègre avant l'époque de la guerre civile aux Etats-Unis et fait remarquer que les anciennes relations intimes qui existaient avant ce conflit ont donné lieu à la formation de bandes dans les plantations de coton, et il est difficile de dire comment la crise aurait pu être retardée ou évitée.

Le magasin littéraire, "Current History," du mois de mars contient un grand nombre de portraits et d'illustrations d'un intérêt exceptionnel pour toutes les personnes qui étudient les événements récents qui ont eu lieu aux Etats-Unis, dans l'Amérique du Sud et dans l'Afrique du Sud.

# MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

## BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

VOL. VIII.

MAY, 1900.

No. 5.

### ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

#### EXPORTS IN JANUARY, 1900.

During the month of January, 1900, the exports from the Argentine Republic included 105,023 tons of wheat as compared with 29,355 tons in January, 1899; 75,691 tons of maize as against 45,915 tons in the same month of 1899, and 35,699 tons of linseed as against 6,686 tons in January, 1899.

Other exports for January, 1900, as compared with January, 1899, were 3,019 tons of flour against 1,124 tons; 237,982 bales of hay against 58,516 bales; 81,294 bales of wool against 72,809 bales; 132,752 frozen wethers against 145,582; 59,621 live sheep against 47,191; 13,030 live steers against 15,168, and 211,771 hides against 289,343.

#### COMMERCE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

The trade of the Argentine Republic with Great Britain during the first quarter of 1900, as compared with the same period for the years 1899 and 1898, is as follows, according to the British official reports:

	1900.	1899.	1898.
EXPORTS.			
Cattle.....	£521,756	£365,332	£363,485
Sheep and lambs .....	200,267	149,405	181,054
Wheat .....	1,020,581	231,503	294,443
Corn.....	425,590	125,741	1,308
Mutton .....	380,472	348,512	292,770
Wet hides .....	7,481	3,225	5,143
Tallow.....	67,913	42,547	26,336
Flaxseed .....	391,259	88,015	157,318

	1900.	1899.	1898.
<b>IMPORTS.</b>			
Cotton piece goods .....	£298,858	£276,833	£231,213
Jute piece goods .....	63,282	154,199	36,321
Linen piece goods .....	7,284	7,938	7,690
Woolen tissues .....	53,697	33,579	30,291
Worsted tissues .....	88,867	68,293	43,276
Carpets .....	31,151	41,645	26,355
Cutlery .....	4,146	2,281	3,290
Hardware .....	7,281	8,999	7,154
Bar, angle, rod, and bolt iron .....	25,989	10,926	22,540
Railroad iron .....	58,472	5,748	112,094
Wire (except telegraph) .....	13,564	11,892	9,052
Hoop, sheet, boiler plate, etc. ....	10,764	2,021	2,226
Galvanized sheets .....	153,431	86,153	59,851
Tin plates and sheets .....	17,704	10,013	11,735
Cast, wrought, and all other iron .....	47,403	47,815	57,499
Cement .....	7,663	9,289	10,097
Earthen, porcelain, and china ware .....	15,287	7,211	8,020

### INDIAN AFFAIRS.

In a recent message to Congress, President ROCA urged the adoption of measures to prevent the Indians of the Republic from continuing to be a source of danger to the frontier colonies, to improve their condition, and to make them useful elements of the national life. The Minister of the Interior also dealt with this matter somewhat fully in his memorial, which was transmitted to Congress, declaring that it was necessary to define and legalize the status of the Indians, reminding Congress that it was invested with power by the Constitution (article 67, section 15) to provide for the security of the frontiers, to maintain pacific relations with the Indians, and to promote their conversion to Catholicism. He also made reference to the Indian reservations in the United States, and stated that the Argentine Government, partially adopting the system followed there, proposed that missionary stations should be established in sufficient areas of land to be subdivided and distributed among the various tribes, who would be provided with the necessities for the cultivation of the soil.

### RECEPTION OF MINISTER WILDE.

On May 5, 1900, Señor DON EDUARDO WILDE, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Argentine Republic near the Government of the United States, presented his credentials to President MCKINLEY. Señor WILDE was accompanied to the White House in Washington by Hon. JOHN HAY, Secretary of State of the United States, and by Señor DEL VISO, First Secretary of the Argentine Legation.

The new Minister handed to the President, with his credentials, a letter of recall for his predecessor, Señor DON GARCIA MÉRQU, and in so doing, said:

“The Chief Executive of my Government charges me specially to express his wishes for the continuation of the marvelous progress of

this great Republic, and for the personal happiness of Your Excellency. Allow me at the same time to manifest the sentiments of sincere friendship which the Argentine nation cherishes for this country and also those of high esteem and sympathy which I feel for this nation and its Government."

In response, President MCKINLEY said:

"I gratefully accept and most cordially reciprocate the good wishes of your President, and hope that the conditions of peace and prosperity which your country now so happily enjoys may long continue under its enlightened Government. No efforts of this Government shall be lacking to maintain and increase the friendly relations between us and the Argentine Republic, and we shall be glad of your cooperation in this beneficent work."

#### DEPOSITS OF PETROLEUM.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received a pamphlet from the Argentine Industrial Union relative to the Argentine petroleum deposits. These deposits have been known to exist for a long time in the Provinces of Salta and Jujuy, but have been exploited in such a primitive manner that it was impossible to obtain good results from them. A company having been formed to operate the deposits, and the Government was requested to send a geologist to examine and report upon the same. This work was confided to Professor BRACKEBUSCH, and the following is a summary of his report:

In the Argentine, Chilean, and Peruvian Republics there are found, in many places, layers of red sandstone of enormous thickness, the age of which is uncertain and hard to determine, owing to the lack of fossiliferous remains in the rocks. Some geologists are of the opinion that it belongs to the Silurian, some classify it as Devonian and other systems, but as yet its age remains in doubt and an enigma to geologists. The petrographic character of this sandstone, as well as that of the conglomerates and gypsum which accompany it, is in all points the same, and naturalists have observed that the outcrops in all places are completely analogous. They are largely distributed throughout the South American continent—worn away and exposed at places by erosion—and it is probable that all this formation belongs to the same age. Interspersed among the sandstone are lime and other rocks, and in many places petroleum drops from the crevices of the bituminous rocks and filters through to the alternate layers of limestone, being conducted along the same and probably collecting and forming subterranean deposits. These are the most important layers, and when bored through would undoubtedly furnish a large supply of mineral oil.

Petroleum springs are found on the surface in some places, the best known of which are Garrapatal and La Brea, their origin being due to subterranean deposits of unknown depth. The appearance at the sur-

face through narrow crevices in the rocks is easily explained by the fact that gases generating in the interior naturally seek an exit and force the liquid to the surface. These springs have existed for a long time, and the air has condensed and hardened the oil and converted it into a kind of asphalt. In this manner is formed a mixture resembling tar, out of which the oil oozes at the places mentioned. Near these springs are also found hot springs and sulphur springs. Another proof that there exists in the Provinces of Jujuy and Salta subterranean vapors of great expansive force is the numerous earthquakes that occur in that vicinity. Petroleum springs are also found in Cacheuta, Province of Mendoza.

#### TELEGRAPH LINE THROUGH PATAGONIA.

“La Nacion,” of Buenos Ayres, says that the Government telegraph line has reached Trelew, capital of the Territory of Chubut. From there it will be extended to Rawson, and then to the bay of Camarones, its final destination being Tierra del Fuego. A cable line will be constructed where necessary. The building of the line to Trelew was done under the direct supervision of the Government, and at a saving of \$40,000 compared with the estimated cost. Dr. GARCIA FERNÁNDEZ, Director of the Department of Telegraphs, estimates that it will cost about \$140,000 to complete the line to Tierra del Fuego. In addition to this telegraph line, plans are being prepared for the construction of a new system covering 5,000 kilometers which will make a complete network of telegraph lines, reaching all the important points of the vast territory of the Argentine Republic.

#### RAILWAY STATISTICS.

The seventh volume of the Statistics of Argentine Railways, containing full particulars of the railways in operation during the year 1898, was recently issued. This report contains much useful information, and the volumes printed together make a complete history of the railways of the Republic. The first railway in operation was the section of the Western of Buenos Ayres to Floresta, a distance of about 10 kilometers, which was opened for traffic on August 29, 1857. At the end of 1862 the Northern Railway was opened to Belgrano. In September, 1865, the Eseñada line to Tres Esquinas and Barracas was opened, and in the following December the opening took place of the Great Southern to Jeppener and Altamiraño. The Central Argentine and the Primer Entreriano (only 10 kilometers) were opened for traffic in 1866. In 1873 the Andine, 132 kilometers, was opened.

A section of the East Argentine was opened in 1874; of the Central Córdoba in 1875, and of the Buenos Ayres and Rosario in 1876. No new lines were opened thereafter until 1883, when a section of the West Santafecino was opened to traffic, the total length of railways then

working being 3,164 kilometers. The year 1875 saw the inauguration of travel over sections of the Pacific and the Province of Santa Fé railways, while the following year the Welshmen of Chubut had 10 kilometers in operation. Then followed, in succession, the Argentine Great Western and Entre Rios in 1887; the Northwest Argentine and the eastern section of Central Córdoba in 1888; the Central Northern (north and south sections), and North Argentine in 1889; the Santa Fé Southern in 1890, and finally, in 1891, the Villa Maria to Rufino, the Córdoba, and sections of the North Argentine (La Rioja section), Bahia Blanca and Northwestern, Transandine, Central Northern (south section), and Córdoba and Northwestern, making the total length of railways 12,475 kilometers.

From that date to the end of 1898, by extensions of many of the lines, the length of road in operation was increased to 15,451 kilometers. Of the railways then working, three, with a length of 1,957 kilometers, belong to the National Government; four, 1,181 kilometers, were the property of Provinces, while the remainder were owned by private companies. With the close of 1898 the total amount of capital invested in railways was \$523,517,095, gold, which yielded a rate of 2.7 per cent interest on the capital invested. In that year the roads carried 16,478,058 passengers and 9,429,141 tons of goods. The total receipts of the roads amounted to \$33,241,509, gold, and the expenses to \$19,103,121.

These railroads were divided among the Provinces as follows:

	Kilometers.		Kilometers.
Buenos Ayres .....	4,871.9	San Luis .....	334.7
Santa Fé .....	3,400.0	Pampa .....	330.2
Córdoba .....	1,954.6	La Rioja .....	318.5
Santiago del Estero .....	1,068.3	Salta .....	295.7
Entre Rios .....	717.8	San Juan .....	83.6
Tucumán .....	587.6	Buenos Ayres (city) .....	75.0
Corrientes .....	536.1	Chubut .....	70.1
Mendoza .....	372.7	Jujuy .....	51.9
Catamarca .....	362.1	Chaco .....	20.0

The average length of railway per square kilometer of the area of the Republic was 0.7 kilometer. Sixty-one per cent of the lines are broad gauge, 8 per cent medium, and 31 per cent narrow gauge. Of double track there are 386 kilometers, and of single track 15,064 kilometers. The following is a statement of the rolling stock in use:

	Locomotives.	Coaches.	Freight cars.
1895 .....	1,125	1,444	31,626
1896 .....	1,139	1,446	31,956
1897 .....	1,153	1,493	32,425
1898 .....	1,180	1,547	32,400

To the above should be added 921 baggage cars and 133 specials for 1898.

The average monthly number of locomotives in use was 859, each of which averaged a service of 42,499 kilometers. The carrying capacity of the 32,400 freight cars is given as 384,254 tons. The number of passengers carried was 1,647,058, of whom 51 per cent traveled first class and 49 per cent second class. The amount of freight transported was 9,429,141 tons.

The transportation of live stock is indicated by the following figures:

Sheep .....	6, 003, 746
Horses.....	58, 043
Horned cattle .....	637, 412
Swine .....	95, 576

Receipts for the year from the various branches of service were as follows: Passengers, \$8,044,212, gold; express freights, \$1,194,150, gold; freight, \$22,356,420.90, the percentage of each being: Passenger service, 25.3 per cent; express and baggage, 3.7, and freight, 69.6.

The running expenses were \$18,334,284, gold, or an average of \$1,194 per kilometer. The total receipts were \$33,241,509 and the total expenditures \$19,103,121. Accidents numbered 746, in which 142 persons were killed and 170 injured.

#### AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

The report of the directors of the agricultural society known as the "Sala del Once," which recently made its appearance, contains some interesting information. According to this, the wool clip for 1899 was 21,000 tons less than the clip for 1898, but on account of the great advance in price a much larger sum was realized. The exports of wool from October 1, 1899, to February 15, 1900, were stated to have been 133,168 tons. With regard to the wheat crop, this report states that the volume was inferior to 1898, and less uniform, few lots coming to the market in a satisfactory condition. The farmers are recommended to pay more attention to the class of wheat sown and to the adaptability of different varieties of grain for the several qualities of soil.

The directors estimate that exports of wheat for 1900 will be not more than 1,500,000 tons, as against 1,713,429 tons in 1899. A shortage in linseed is also expected, the quantity for export being calculated at 180,000 tons, as against 217,713 tons in 1899, though the grain is heavier, cleaner, and better in every way. With regard to the maize crop, the quantity for export is estimated at 600,000 tons, whereas in 1899 the quantity exported was 1,116,276 tons. From this report it will be seen that the directors of this society have rather a pessimistic view of the exporting capacity of the Argentine Republic this year, and that the opinion generally entertained does not correspond with their estimates.



**RECENT GOVERNMENT SURVEYS.**

The officers of the Argentine warship *Almirante Brown* are engaged on a hydrographical survey of the southern coast of the country. So far as reported, the coast from Lapatia to Cape Sempio, in Beagle Channel, has been surveyed and charted. The surveyors are stated to have found a splendid new anchorage, to which they have given the name of Port Admiral Brown. Several errors in existing charts have been corrected and the principal ports of Tierra del Fuego have been buoyed.

Mr. CARLOS MARTINEZ, a civil engineer, who was commissioned by the Government to explore and survey the lands around Lake Nahuel Huapi, has returned to Buenos Ayres, having completed the greater part of his task. He expects to finish the whole work before the beginning of 1901.

The surveys and plans for the port of Colastine, prepared by Engineer CASAFFOU, have been finished and submitted to the Government. The engineer proposes a canal of 800 meters from the River Colastine to what is known as La Guardia, with some supplementary work at the mouth of the Laguna. With the necessary wharves, cranes, warehouses, etc., the cost of the improvements at this port is estimated at \$3,000,000.

**DEVELOPMENT OF GOLD MINING.**

"La Nación," of Buenos Ayres, reports that in July, 1899, work was commenced in the Jujuy gold mines at Timan Cruz, district of Santa Catalina, for the grinding and amalgamating of quartz ores. At the same time the extraction of ores was commenced at La Ventura, Cruz del Sur, and La Perdida mines, situated in the same district. The ore has to be freighted on burros from the mines to Timan Cruz, which costs about 50 cents per 100 pounds. These mines belong to the Ada Mining Company, of Buenos Ayres, and the average assay is about 112 grams of gold to the ton. The veins are wide and the ore abundant, some of it assaying as high as 178 grams of gold to the ton.

"El Mercurio," of Valparaiso, Chile, under date of February 8, 1900, states that rich gold-bearing sands have been discovered in Neuquen, Argentine Republic. Parties arriving from that district report that these sands are being advantageously worked by Indians and Chilean citizens. The district embraces Pulmary Creek and vicinity. Mr. C. W. HALL, a practical miner, who resides in Valparaiso, says that many miners and prospectors are now going into that district, attracted by its richness. It is rumored that miners who have staked claims are realizing handsome returns.

**REPORT ON COAL DEPOSITS.**

"La Tribuna," of Buenos Ayres, in its issue of February 2, 1900, contains an interesting article on the coal deposits of the Argentine Republic. Professor THIERRY, of the San Juan School of Mines, in 1899 made an exhaustive report on this subject, which was reproduced and favorably commented upon by a number of South American publications. In 1870 the Argentine Government offered \$20,000 in silver to anyone discovering a coal mine. This caused careful search and much investigation in the Provinces of San Juan, La Rioja, and Mendoza. Three districts were designated as being likely to contain paying quantities of coal. The first of these is at Neuquen, near the important Chilean coal mines of Lota, Coronel, and Talcahuano. The second is in the Territory of Misiones, near San Javier, and the third is situated about 3 leagues west of Retamito Station, on the Argentine and Great Western Railroad. At the latter point some fossils were encountered which were sent to Dr. BERG, a celebrated geologist of the University of Casnovia, who classified them as belonging to the Lower Carboniferous age, and stated that they gave every indication of the probable existence of rich and extensive coal deposits.

**SHIPMENTS OF WOOL TO FRANCE.**

The Consul of the Argentine Republic at the port of Dunkirk, in northeastern France, near the Belgian frontier, has made a report relative to the wool industry, and especially as regards the imports of wool at the port named. Formerly Antwerp, Belgium, was the chief port of entry for foreign wool. In 1881 Dunkirk received 16,894,640 kilograms of wool, and 143,427,021 kilograms in 1899, two-thirds of which, or 94,102,338 kilograms, came from the Argentine Republic. In 1881 the amount of Argentine wool received at that port was only 1,006,600 kilograms. In 1882 Dunkirk received from the River Plate region 1,617 bales of wool, while Antwerp received 169,954 bales; in 1899, on the contrary, Antwerp received only 86,167 bales, against 260,776 bales arriving at Dunkirk.

**FERTILITY OF PATAGONIA.**

Señor VALENTÍN VIVASORO, a well-known civil engineer, has traveled through Patagonia from the Atlantic coast to the source of the Jeuna River, a tributary of the Singer River, and from there to Roca, a distance of about 280 leagues. He gives a glowing report of the country, finding it well watered, abounding in grassy plains, and an ideal place for stock raising. He believes that Patagonia will soon export large quantities of agricultural products, and was surprised at the flourishing condition of agriculture and stock raising in that section.

**IMMIGRATION STATISTICS.**

Statistics for 1899 show that 150,000 persons arrived at Buenos Ayres during that year, of which 88,000 were immigrants. Among these were 13,000 families of agriculturists, consisting of 40,000 persons. About 30 per cent of the immigrants remained in Buenos Ayres and Santa Fé, the remainder being distributed throughout the other Provinces. The immigration in 1899 was greater than that of any other year since 1890, with the exception of 1896, in which year it was 102,000.

**INCREASE IN SHIPPING.**

According to "La Nación," the year 1899 was one of great prosperity for Argentine ports. Notwithstanding the increased freight rates over the entire commercial world, the number of sailing vessels exceeded by 100,000 tons those of the preceding year. In 1899 there registered at Buenos Ayres 1,680 ocean steamers and sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 2,838,714 tons, while in 1898 there arrived 1,138 ships and sailing vessels, with a capacity of 2,110,856 tons, making a difference in favor of 1899 of 542 vessels and 727,958 tons.

**MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.**

A contract has been signed for the construction of a live-stock market in Barracas. Messrs. LUIS STREMITZ & Co. are the contractors, and they are bound, under heavy penalties, to have all the buildings finished by July 30, 1900. They are also required to have steady employment for 500 men.

The Health Department of Buenos Ayres desires information and data regarding different processes for the extermination of rats, which are, as is well known, propagators of the bubonic plague. Interested parties should communicate with the Secretary of the Board of Health in Buenos Ayres.

The banks of Buenos Ayres pay interest at the rate of 1 per cent on current deposits, and on time deposits from 2 per cent to 5 per cent, according to the length of time the money is left in the bank.

A statement of the National Bank of the Argentine Republic, dated December 31, 1899, shows that institution to be in a flourishing condition.

The Government of the Province of Córdoba has ordered the reopening of the Banco Provincial with a capital of \$1,000,000.

The Western Railroad has been authorized to extend its line to Riachuelos.

## BOLIVIA.

## MARKET FOR MINING MACHINERY.

Writing from San Cristobal de Lipez, under date of February 15, 1900, to the "Engineering and Mining Journal," Mr. JOSEF JACKOWSKI makes some suggestions relative to the cultivation of South American markets by United States manufacturers. With regard to Bolivia, the establishment of a large warehouse at Antofagasta, where the manufacturers might send material, is strongly urged. Mr. JACKOWSKI says there is a good market for mining machinery of all kinds in Bolivia, as this industry is as yet scarcely developed. Deposits of silver, tin, copper, and gold are to be found in paying quantities; all that is needed for their development is foreign capital. There is also an opening in the Republic for a supply house that could furnish mining implements and supplies directly to the miners. At present it is necessary to import such articles from the United States and Europe, which results in long delays and is otherwise unsatisfactory. Among those who could be depended upon to assist in the establishment of such warehouses as those outlined by the writer, Messrs. CHARLES C. GREEN, United States Consul at Antofagasta, Chile; F. S. SHOREY, a Californian, who has lived in Bolivia for twenty-five years, and WALTER RICHARDSON, of the Huanchaca Company, are named. Mr. JACKOWSKI says he is willing to give any information required by interested parties.

## IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES.

During January, 1900, there was dispatched from New York City to Bolivia 2,149 packages of merchandise, valued at \$19,251.69. In February there were dispatched 1,639 packages, having a value of \$34,242.63, while the exports in March numbered 1,719 packages, worth \$32,287.95. During the month of April only 236 packages were exported, valued at \$8,541.68. The exports from the United States to Bolivia for the first three months of the year were one-third greater than for the same period in 1899. The heavy decrease in April was owing to the fact that no steamship sailed which touched at Antofagasta, Chile, the seaport for Bolivian products, during the month. For the first five days in May the exports to Bolivia from New York exceeded those of the entire month of April. Mr. ENRIQUE WULFF, Consul-General of Bolivia, in New York City, is quoted as saying that Bolivia will soon be a most promising field for the manufacturers of mining and other machinery in the United States.

**DRAINAGE OF A MINE.**

It is reported from Antofagasta that work will soon be commenced on the Pulacayo mine, belonging to the Huanchaca company of Bolivia. A tunnel will have to be dug to drain the mine, the workings of which are at present under water. It is estimated that it will take several years to complete the work contemplated.

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**BRAZIL.****COMMERCE OF THE STATE OF BAHIA.**

In a report on the agricultural and industrial matters of the State of Bahia, Mr. HOFF, of the staff of the French consulate of that port, says that of all the States of Brazil, Bahia is the one which has the greatest number of resources, due to the variety of its agricultural products, such as tobacco, cotton, coffee, sugar cane, etc. The cultivation of the greater part of these products, coffee excepted, is daily growing in importance. A more favorable result still would be obtained if instead of the primitive methods now employed improved machinery was used. However, progress has been made in the sugar industry. Besides a hundred factories worked with crude machinery, there are 17 central factories which produce, by using improved machinery, 124 tons in 12 hours.

Among the manufacturers of textiles the "Emporio Industrial do Norte," situated at Boa Viagem, near Bahia, is remarkable for the variety of its cotton goods. This factory employs more than 1,000 hands of both sexes. It has established a model city, with houses for the families of its employees; also schools and other institutions for their comfort and welfare.

The cotton used in the factories is for the most part imported from Maceio, Pernambuco, and Penedo, and the cotton goods produced, generally of coarse quality, are only used for local consumption.

Among the larger enterprises are the "Progresso Industrial" and the "Chapellaria Norte Industrial," which make about 500,000 hats yearly.

These several industries would, according to Mr. HOFF, be placed in a very precarious situation if there should be a rise in exchange. Hand labor is, in fact, quite costly in the country, and although all the raw material comes from Europe, with prices a little below those demanded for foreign products, large profits may be obtained. But should there be an improvement in exchange the foreign goods could be imported at a price against which the local product could not compete.

The snuff, cigar, and cigarette factories employ more than 6,000 people. Among them, DANNEMAN & Co. produce from 20,000,000 to 25,000,000 cigars per year. Among the other articles made in the country are candles (three factories), soap (seven factories), perfumery, liquors, kid gloves, vinegar, beer, ice, nails, cotton-seed oil and whale oil; besides there are works for the smelting of bronze and iron, and the manufacture of enameled iron, machine shops, saw mills, and many other small industries. It is estimated that all these industries together do not supply 10 per cent of the local necessities.

The State of Bahia is exceedingly rich in minerals of all kinds, but the mines have never been properly worked; the same methods are now employed as were in use in colonial times. Without doubt a large number of mines, abandoned as being unproductive, and which have only been worked on the surface, could still furnish enormous wealth if modern machinery were used. Gold is to be found in the alluvial deposits of the rivers, but there is only one mine, the "Jacobina," which has the necessary machinery for extracting gold from quartz. As yet the results of the labor of this company have not met expectations. Diamonds, carbonates, and precious stones of all kinds are to be found in the central part of the State near Lençoes, and known under the name of *terrenos diamantinos*. This region is more than 720 kilometers in extent, and has been divided into fourteen districts by the Government. The owners of the land in these districts pay a certain tax to the Government, which in 1898 amounted to about \$6,000. The Salobro diamond mines, belonging to a French company, are in the southern part of the State, near Cannarierras.

About two years ago abundant deposits of manganese were discovered in the suburbs of a small village called Antonio de Jesus, near Bahia. Since that time two mines have been worked, one belonging to Mr. CARDOSO FRANCISCO, the other belonging to the Southern Spanish Mining Company, whose headquarters are in Paris. This ore is not very rich, containing little more than from 43 to 45 per cent of manganese, but its extraction is very easy. Many other deposits of manganese have been found in this neighborhood. It is said that two more mines have already been discovered and that some English houses from Nazareth have sent a corps of engineers to inspect the property. In 1897 the greater part of the manganese ore was shipped to the United States through Baltimore. In 1898, 1,641 tons were exported, 750 tons to Southampton and 891 tons to Bordeaux. In 1899 some exports were made to Philadelphia.

There has been found near the city of Prado, on the coast, sand called *areias de Prado*, or monazite, which is very rich in thorium. An American capitalist, Mr. JOHN GORDON, living in Rio de Janeiro, has become the sole concessioner for a period of twenty years for the

exploitation of this ore, which is sold for £20 per ton. The export duties, which amount to 24 per cent of the value of the ore calculated at the above price, are the source of a considerable revenue to the State. The monazite from the Prado mines is shipped to Southampton and Hamburg. From Hamburg it is sent to Austria-Hungary. In 1897 the exports were 850 tons; in 1898 they rose to 3,858 tons, and in 1899 they were much greater, though the exact figures are not yet obtainable.

#### MANGABEIRA AND MANIÇOBA RUBBER.

The "Bulletin Commercial," of Paris, says, in its issue of April 7, that in 1899 the State of São Paulo voted a law instituting premiums to aid, encourage, and develop the culture for the "mangabeira" rubber tree (*Haucornia speciosa*). At the same time the State Legislature decreed that premiums would also be granted to those who succeeded in acclimating other plants producing a good, elastic gum, or to those who would find a better process for the extraction of the latex.

Moreover, a professor of chemistry and agriculture at the Polytechnic School of São Paulo was commissioned to visit the parts of the State where mangabeira grows in its wild state. On his return this specialist presented to the Government a preliminary report on the extraction of elastic gum from the sylvestrian mangabeira.

This report, by Mr. A. ACHOA CAVALCANTI, was published in pamphlet form with an appendix entitled "A Mangabeira," by Mr. PEREIRA D'UTRA, Director of the Agronomical Institute of Campinas, with cuts of the tree, its leaves, fruit, and seeds. This first work, which appeared in 1898, should have been followed by a second, giving the results obtained, but up to the present time Mr. CAVALCANTI has published nothing new on this subject.

From a recent communication of the Belgian Legation at Rio de Janeiro it appears that the attempts at sowing and planting mangabeiras in the State of São Paulo have completely failed. According to the director of the botanical garden at Rio, this failure is due to the fact that this tree is strictly of forest growth. Its seeds should fall upon a soil protected by dead leaves or plants, and not on a prepared soil exposed to the sun's rays. The botanical garden of Rio contains no mangabeiras, while there is one maniçoba and two seringas (Amazon tree); these, however, are very unhealthy specimens.

The sylvestrian mangabeira is found in all the central States of Brazil—Pernambuco, Bahia, Goyaz, Espirito Santo, São Paulo, Minas Geraes, and Rio de Janeiro. There are many of these trees in the *campos*, or fields, of the three States last named. The gum which is extracted is of inferior quality. The best Brazilian rubber comes from the seringas of Para and Amazonas. The quality of the maniçoba averages with these two species.

The August number of the Bulletin of the Agronomical Institute contains a study by the director of this establishment on mangabeira and its culture. In this the author treats of the origin of the tree; of its species and varieties; of its botanical description; of the manner of vegetation and reproduction; of the soil; of planting and transplanting; of the latex and its coagulation; of the quantity of latex and rubber produced by a tree, and of the treatment and price of the rubber.

In the suburbs of Cravinhos and Ribeiro Preto, 400 kilometers from São Paulo, which is perhaps the best country for the cultivation of coffee, there remains no trace of the sowing and planting of mangabeiras. However, the fields contain many sylvestrian mangabeiras. These trees bear numerous traces of the incisions made to extract the latex. In general these trees are not a source of profit to the owners, for the gum is gathered by the nomadic tribes coming from the State of Bahia, and to have these extensive lands guarded would be too great an expense for the *fazendeiros* (planters).

Large quantities of maniçobas have been planted or sown to replace the mangabeiras. At present the Government of the State does not distribute any but maniçoba seeds. This tree grows very well, but the results of its culture are as yet unknown.

All the coffee *fazendas* (plantations) situated in the suburbs of Ribeiro Preto and Campinas contain maniçoba plantations. But in the State of Rio de Janeiro, where coffee yields smaller profits than in the State of São Paulo, the culture of maniçoba is undertaken on a larger scale. Among these plantations can be mentioned those of Mr. HARITOFF, and Mr. J. DE FRANÇA, the latter plantation at Barro do Pirahy, 108 kilometers from Rio de Janeiro, the trees of which give promise of becoming very productive. On the other hand, Mr. LUMAY, a Belgian, has scarcely one left of the thousands of trees which he had planted in his *fazenda* along the Parahyba River. Ants and other insects have to a great extent devoured his plantation.

The first results of these numerous experiments will soon be known. This tree begins to yield in its third year, giving 50 grams of rubber; at four years it should produce 100 grams; at five years, 150; at six years, 600; at seven years, 1,000, and at ten years the tree reaches its full maturity. The maniçoba requires high, stony, and dry lands; it demands heat and can survive prolonged dry spells. The maximum and minimum limits of the temperature should be from 20° to 40° C.; it is then that the results of its cultivation offer the greatest advantages. It flourishes even at 1,800 meters above the sea level and adapts itself well to the new climatic conditions of its adopted country. It is the rubber tree of the future says SELINGMANN. The maniçoba latex furnishes from 15 to 40 per cent of rubber; if the yield does not reach 15 per cent the exploitation offers no profit.

The experiments with maniçoba plantations in Asia and particularly



in Ceylon have been crowned with success, while the attempts at acclimatization of the seringá (*Havea Braziliensis*) have not been successful. This demands a soil and climatic conditions corresponding exactly to those of its native country. As is known, the maniçoba prospers especially in the State of Ceará. It appears, however, that its product has not always a great value; lately the entire cargo of Ceará rubber shipped in an English steamer was refused in London, under pretext that this gum was of too inferior a quality.

Following the example of the State of São Paulo, the Government of Bahia is encouraging the cultivation of maniçoba. The Agricultural Department of Bahia distributes gratuitously a pamphlet on maniçoba, containing detailed instructions for its cultivation, for the extraction of the latex, and for the preparation of the rubber.

### EXPORTS FROM MATTO GROSSO.

A French journal, in one of its recent numbers, publishes a report made by Mr. CHARLES CADIOT, Commissioner of Foreign Commerce of France to Cuyabá (State of Matto Grosso, Brazil), and former Paraguayan Consul-General at Paris, on the exports of Matto-Grosso.

In this report Mr. CADIOT says that among the articles of value and light weight which can support the expenses of transportation from Cuyabá to Europe (including the export customs duties) can be mentioned plumes and vanilla, to which can also be added skins, although of heavier weight and less value.

The plumes are mostly taken from birds known under the name of *garças* or white herons, which exist in innumerable flocks in the State of Matto Grosso. These plumes are of two kinds: The *aigrette*, which is white, straight, and about 15 to 18 centimeters in length, and the *crosse* (crook) which is smaller, being about 10 to 12 centimeters in length. The top part is in the shape of a crook, from whence it gets its name. These plumes are used in millinery, and find a ready sale in the markets of Paris, London, and New York. Although the prices fluctuate greatly, according to the demand, they generally command from 850 to 1,400 *francs* per kilo for the first kind and from 2,000 to 5,000 *francs* per kilo for the second. The Indians and farmers hunt these birds in all seasons, and principally in the breeding season, when the plumes are at their best. These are easily obtained, and at advantageous conditions, by exchanging for some articles of small value.

Other white and colored plumes can also be exported, but the buyer should prudently follow the demands of the market and the European prices. The humming birds are practically extinct, having been almost completely exterminated these last few years.

Vanilla, properly called, does not exist in the State of Matto Grosso, but it could easily be cultivated, as is done in Mexico. On the other hand, in all the forest in the north of the State "vanillon," or wild vanilla,

is found growing abundantly in the warm and damp shade of the large trees. This product has never been considered commercially, but should be very profitable, and could be made so. This quality of wild vanilla is worth from 14 to 15 *francs* per kilo in Europe, and the only expense is for the gathering, while this operation as well as the drying could be done cheaply by the same workmen, who at the same time could gather rubber or ipecacuanha. It would be necessary to pack the pods separately in sheets of tin foil to preserve them during the voyage from Matto Grosso to Europe. The pods of the wild vanilla are short and quite thick, but they have an exquisite perfume.

The Cibrils Company, a Belgian enterprise, situated in Descalvado, on the Paraguay River between Corumba and San-Luiz-de-Cacérés, occupies a surface of 300 square leagues. It is engaged in the trade of concentrated meat juices and skins, shipping yearly from 110,000 to 125,000 dried skins, which are sold only at Antwerp. This same company has just bought, in partnership with another important Belgian company, a property of 100 square leagues with 70,000 head of cattle, which gives rise to the belief that its commerce is becoming more and more prosperous.

Outside of this enterprise there are a large number of farms which count from 1,000 to 10,000 and even 15,000 head of cattle, making it possible to obtain, as is done to-day on a small scale, many dried hides at advantageous terms by means of exchanges or even by direct importations of European merchandise, and then to supply, in competition with the Argentine Republic and Uruguay, the markets of Bordeaux, Havre, Dunkirk, Marseilles, etc.

Some goatskins could also be obtained in this way. Sheep are so few in Brazil that they may not be considered. Jaguar skins, with or without the head of the animal attached, are of very beautiful and clear designs without being of very large dimensions. There are no lions with manes. The hair of the puma is short, as is the case with the leopard and tiger cat; these latter being small with very rich coloring. This trade is almost entirely centered at Communion.

It is almost impossible to obtain any idea of the development and importance of this trade, on account of the lack of regular statistics. However, it is destined to become an important factor before long, for as the payments are mostly made in exchange of merchandise this trade favors the importation of French manufactured products, which are already very highly appreciated.

Mr. CADIOT says it is with regret that he sees the Belgians are the only ones that are establishing themselves in Matto Grosso. If this continues the profits will pass entirely into the hands of that nationality.

A report prepared by the Belgian Legation at Rio de Janeiro regarding this State was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for February, 1900, and a comparison of this with the French report shows that they are very similar.

## PURCHASES OF COFFEE BY THE UNITED STATES.

In the course of an article on Brazil, particularly with reference to its finances, the "Statist" of London, England, has this to say regarding the influence of the United States upon the coffee market of that country:

"The fall in the price of coffee was directly due to overproduction. \* \* \* Since 1897, however, consumption has very considerably increased, especially in the United States. There were loud complaints at first that retailers refused to act in accordance with the new conditions—that they tried to keep up prices, that thus the increase in consumption was very small. Furthermore, it was found that upon the Continent in particular, consumers had become so accustomed to the adulteration of coffee by the addition of chicory that they did not care for a pure article at first. For a while, therefore, the growth and consumption was very slow. Gradually, however, the trade recognized that it did not pay to mix chicory and other such ingredients with coffee; that the pure berry had become so cheap that the time, trouble, and expense of adulteration were hardly worth the game; and, as the pure article came to be offered, a greater quantity of course was required, while, no doubt, also, the pure article after a while attracted customers.

"Perhaps, however, the most important influence of all has been the great revival of trade in the United States. Up to \* \* \* 1896, there had been six years of recurring crises and great trade depression. Ever since \* \* \* the country has been advancing by leaps and bounds, and as the new prosperity is due in no small measure to the failure of the wheat crop elsewhere and to the abundant crops raised in the United States, the farming community, which still forms the bulk of the population, became better and better off. Their prosperity, of course, led to the prosperity to the towns, and gave an immense stimulus to every kind of industry. As a natural consequence the people are increasing their purchases in every direction, and more particularly there has been a very marked augmentation in the consumption of coffee. The price of middling qualities, which for a while fell to 26 shillings per hundredweight, and, we believe, even to 25 shillings, has recently recovered to about 40 shillings. It is still a long way below the price that used to rule, \* \* \* but it is an improvement of about 50 per cent upon the lowest quotations for 1897 and 1898, and it looks as if the present price may be maintained.

"For the year ending with June next it is estimated that the crop will be about 9,500,000 bags, which is a very good crop, no doubt, but not very materially larger than the crop of 1898, which was nearly 8,750,000. \* \* \* The coffee crop is so important to Brazil that we have dwelt upon it at considerable length. It is generally estimated

that coffee can be grown without loss throughout Brazil at from 20 to 25 shillings per hundredweight, according to soil, climate, and situation. If that be so, it is evident that there is a very large profit at the present price of 40 shillings or thereabouts, and consequently with so large a crop as 9,000,000 bags \* \* \* there will be a large profit to Brazil this year, and there ought, therefore, to be a further improvement in the (foreign) exchange. If that happens the purchasing power of paper money will increase likewise, and thereby the wages of the working classes will materially benefit, so that the revenue ought to be more productive than it is at present."

### THREE MONTHS' COMMERCE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

According to "Accounts Relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain," the value of the receipts of merchandise of the latter country from Brazil for the first quarter of the present calendar year included the following: Sugar, £4,642, against £1,602 in the same period in 1899; coffee, £18,865, against £24,092 in 1899; cotton, £188,107, against £430 in 1899.

The purchases of merchandise by Brazil from Great Britain for the period named include coal, £174,579; cotton piece goods, £208,221; jute piece goods and yarn, £51,497; linen piece goods, £9,285; woolen and worsted tissues, £33,204; wrought copper, £11,584; hardware and cutlery, £13,594; tin plates and sheets, £13,359; iron and steel, £110,261; leather, boots, and shoes, £9,797; cement, £6,060; earthenware, china-ware, and porcelain, £14,520; seed oil, £11,452. The total value of the items enumerated as having been taken by Brazil during January, February, and March, 1900, was £667,423, against £802,480 for the same items for the same months in 1899 and against £997,927 in 1898.

### SUSPENSION OF CONSULAR INVOICES.

In view of the protests made by the Commercial Syndicate of Rio de Janeiro against the formality of consular invoices, the presentation of which has been made obligatory, the Treasury Department has again suspended the application of this measure, according to the "Moniteur Officiel," of Paris, in its issue for April 26, 1900.

### PRIZE FOR HISTORICAL DRAMA.

The prize for the best historical drama, offered by the Association for the Commemoration of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Discovery of Brazil, was recently awarded to Senhor M. DE OLIVIERA LIMA, now Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation of Brazil in London. The drama is to be published in the "Livro do Centenario" of the Association.

**COFFEE MOVEMENT AT SANTOS.**

According to the monthly report of the Associação Commercio of the city of Santos, the receipts of coffee at that port during February, 1900, aggregated 211,165 bags, against 322,854 bags and 310,273 bags for the same months in 1899 and 1898. Since the 1st of July, 1899, and including the month of February, 1900, the receipts of coffee at Santos aggregated 5,148,798 bags, against 4,528,348 bags for the same time in the previous year. Of the amount received during February, 1900, 95,811 bags were shipped to New York and 7,965 bags to New Orleans.

**PARÁ PORT IMPROVEMENTS.**

According to a recent report from the English Consul, the authorities of this State are well aware of the urgent necessity of improving the port of Pará. The Legislative Chambers of the State are now considering what steps should be taken in the matter, and the Governor has recommended that the State should obtain from the Central Government a concession to undertake the harbor works and to transfer it to a contractor. The Governor also recommends that the extension of the water and the sanitary works of the city should be included in the harbor contract in the event of the contractor being willing to undertake the three contracts together.

**MARKET FOR WOOLEN GOODS.**

A British report on the importation of woolen goods in Brazil states that during the summer cashmeres, of the weight of 380 to 450 grams per meter (140 centimeters broad), are mainly purchased. The consumption is large, especially of black and blue serges and diagonals, the prices ranging from 3 to 4 shillings. Linens—"union drills"—compete with the woolen goods. In the winter months goods weighing from 600 to 750 grams per meter are most in demand. Goods weighing more than 630 grams per meter enjoy an advantage in duty amounting to seven-twelfths of that for lighter weights, so that heavy cloth, which, for instance, is worth not more than 5 shillings, cost about the same as lighter goods whose value is only 3 shillings. In heavy goods the principal demand is for serges and diagonals at from 3 to 5 shillings. About three-fourths of the total supply imported is from Great Britain, the balance being from other European countries.

**CUSTOMS RECEIPTS IN MARCH, 1900.**

The custom-house receipts of Brazil for the month of March were as follows in *milreis*: Maranhão, 447,862; Parnahyba, 85,386; Fortaleza, 39,228; Parahyba, 50,038; Maceio, 88,089; Natal, 16,331.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Belgian explorer, Mr. ALBERTO COMBAIN, has written to the Belgian Consul in Belem, stating that his explorations on the Upper Juruá River continue to give magnificent results. He has found a new variety of rubber tree which contains sap of richer quality, and in greater quantity, than is yielded by the species now commonly known.

A dispatch to the "Journal of Commerce" from Rio de Janeiro, March, 1900, relates that Col. CHARLES PAGE BRYAN, United States Minister to Brazil, had obtained official assurances that United States coal would be used on the Brazilian railways and in the vessels of the Brazilian Navy.

The "Jornal do Commercio," of Juiz de Fôra, in the State of Minas Geraes, says that some of the agriculturists of that State were sowing wheat this year as an experiment. If reasonably successful the sowing next year will be on a large scale.

The Minister of Agriculture of the State of São Paulo has obtained a supplementary credit of 160,000 *milreis* for the immigration service. The total expense for the introduction of immigrants into this State for the past year was 1,366,000 *milreis*.

The lines of the projected electric street railway of São Paulo will have a total length of 56,315 meters, of which 38,616 meters have already been built. The cars for this line are furnished by the BRILL COMPANY, of the United States.

Advices from the State of Minas Geraes indicate that the exportation of gold has increased considerably. On February 18 the MORRO VLEHO COMPANY forwarded cases of bar gold to the value of 510,000 *milreis* to consignees in Rio.

The Portuguese cruiser, *Don Carlos I*, conveying General CUNLIA, the special envoy of the King of Portugal, arrived at Rio de Janeiro on April 30, to take part in the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Brazil.

A German report says that a contract has been entered into between the Helios Electric Company, of Cologne, Germany, and a company of Rio de Janeiro, for the establishment of an electric-light concern.

Permission has been granted to the Brazilianische Bank für Deutschland to establish a branch at Porto Allegre. The license is to be valid for four years, counting from July 1, 1900.

The Government of Minas Geraes has recently established an agricultural colony in Lambary, at a place called Novo Baden, composed entirely of Germans.

## CHILE.

### BUDGET FOR 1900.

The "Diario Oficial" reports that the National Congress has approved the following estimates of Government expenses for the year 1900:

Department of Interior .....	\$11,067,114.23
Department of Foreign Relations, Colonization, etc.....	2,047,332.40
Department of Justice and Public Instruction .....	13,265,827.27
Department of State .....	5,705,955.21
Department of War.....	9,766,587.80
Naval Department.....	7,154,698.63
Department of Industry and Public Works.....	27,407,486.41
Total .....	\$76,415,001.95

This estimate is in Chilean currency, and is equal to \$33,954,641.25 gold.

### CUSTOMS REVENUES IN 1899.

The customs revenues of Chile for 1899, as reported in the "Chilian Times," amounted to \$68,613,756.06 as compared with \$65,798,218.04 in 1898, a difference of \$2,815,537.02 in favor of 1899. The amount derived from import duties in 1899 was \$21,368,585.67 and from export duties \$47,245,169.39, as compared with \$21,370,251.16 derived from imports and \$44,427,966.88 received from exports in 1898.

### COMMERCE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

The receipts of ore, regulus, precipitates, and other forms of copper from Chile by Great Britain during the first quarter of the year 1900 were valued at £395,808. During the same period of 1898 and 1899 the value of copper receipts were, respectively, £208,346 and £345,695.

The value of the British merchandise shipped to Chile during January, February, and March, 1900, so far as enumerated, shows a grand total of £433,227, against £177,652 in 1899 and £194,099 in 1898. More than half the total value of each period under comparison was in cotton piece goods—£249,595 in 1900, £108,549 in 1899, and £109,464 in 1898. The values of the woolen and worsted tissues were £94,888 in 1900, £35,390 in 1899, and £35,548 in 1898. Hardware and cutlery were valued at £6,595 in 1900, £2,524 in 1899, and £5,006 in 1898. Iron and steel in all forms had a combined value of £82,149 in 1900, against £31,189 in 1899, and £44,081 in 1898.

**REPORT FROM COQUIMBO.**

The Acting Consul of Great Britain at Coquimbo has forwarded to the Foreign Office at London a report on the trade of that port for the year 1899. Perhaps the most interesting paragraph is that relating to the shipping interests. It appears that the actual tonnage entered and cleared was greater for the year in reference than for the preceding year, 1898, which, in turn, exceeded that of the years previous. The shipping trade at Coquimbo is very active, for coasters in particular, but the regular ocean lines and independent ships compete with them for the carriage of food stuffs and cattle required to supply the nitrate ports. Coquimbo is the distributing center of a large district, having a sheltered harbor, and its activity is further indicated by the fact that the costs attending the landing of merchandise is less than at the majority of the seaports of the Republic.

**PROPOSED NEW RAILWAYS.**

The "Chilian Times" of March 31, 1900, says that it is reported that tenders are to be called for by the Government for the construction of a narrow-gauge railway line from Talca to San Clemente.

The plans and estimates of a railway line from Pueblo Hundido to Inca del Oro have been approved. The cost of this line is estimated at \$730,000.

The plans and estimates of a branch line from Temuco to Carahue, to cost \$1,800,000, have been approved. Tenders for the construction of this line will be called for within a short period. This railway will provide an outlet to the coast for an extensive territory.

It is reported that some time in May the Government will call for tenders for the construction of the section of railway from Choapa to Illapel.

Work has been commenced on the section of the Talca and Constitución Railway, extending to Banco de Arena, 6 miles from Constitución. This section is to be finished by June 1. The conclusion of the line to Constitución is a question of some time, involving, among other things, as it does, the construction of an iron bridge, estimated to cost \$500,000, over the Maule River.

The survey of the section of the grand trunk railway line extending from Osorno to Puerto Montt has been completed. The length of this section is 129.671 kilometers.

The route of the projected railroad from Valparaiso to Quintero is now being considered by a commission of Government engineers appointed for that purpose.

A recent issue of the "Diario Oficial," of Santiago, contains general specifications for the construction of the Santiago Suburban Railway.



### IMPROVED ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

The "Statist," of London, for April 14, 1900, notes that Chile has materially benefited from the remarkable rise in the price of copper. There has also been a large increase in the consumption of nitrate, while generally the economic conditions of the country have decidedly improved. Government finances are in a thoroughly sound state, while retrenchment is being enforced in every direction. "Those who are best informed are of the opinion that the Government will, without delay, apply itself to the making real the gold standard."

### CONTRACTS FOR COLONISTS.

According to the "Sudamerikanische Rundschau," the Government of Chile has closed a contract with Mr. CHARLES COLSON to place 5,000 families of agriculturists in the Provinces of Cautín, Valdivia, Llanquihue, and on the island of Chiloe. The colonists are to be of the following nationalities: Scandinavians, French, Belgians, Swiss, Dutch, English, and Scotch.

It is also stated that a project of General KÖRNER has already been accepted by the Government in which it is specifically agreed to establish German colonies in Pitrufrquen, Villanca, and Pucon.

### NEW LIGHTHOUSE.

The "Chilian Times" says that the Government has erected a lighthouse on the northwestern extremity of Tumbes Peninsula. It shows a fixed white light at 34 meters elevation above sea level, and is visible at a distance of 6 miles in an arc of 232 degrees comprised between the northern extremity of Quiriquina Island on the one side, and of the extremity of Lobos Point (near Concepción) on the other. At 242 meters to the east of the lighthouse there has been placed a siren, which in foggy weather will emit two sounds a minute, each of five seconds duration, separated by silences of ten and forty seconds, thus: sound, five seconds; silence, ten seconds; sound, five seconds; silence, forty seconds; sound, etc.

### CHILEAN VERSUS FRENCH WINES.

It is asserted, upon the authority of "La Gaceta Comercial," of the city of Mexico, that a syndicate of Chilean wine growers, backed by some English, German, and Scotch merchants, is conducting an active campaign looking to the introduction into English and German markets of Chilean wines, which, according to the statement of those who know, have a quality and fragrance very similar to the Bordeaux and Burgundy wines. The contention is that the syndicate has sufficient capital to establish a fierce rivalry with the French wines.

## NOTES RELATIVE TO BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

"La Estrella," of Panama, says that a company has been organized at Valparaiso for the manufacture of candles. The factory will be in a three-story building and will employ 120 women, and produce annually 3,000,000 kilograms of candles for Chilean and Bolivian consumption. Skilled workmen will be brought from Europe to superintend the manufacture.

The "Sudamerikanische Rundschau" of April 1, 1900, publishes the reports of the Hamburg South American Steamship Company and of the Kosmos Steamship Company for the year 1899. The profits of the former for the year were 1,200,546.86 *marks* and of the latter 3,141,502 *marks*.

A factory for the production of blotting and packing paper with a capital of £25,000 is to be established at Puente Alto, near Santiago. The director of the undertaking is Mr. CÆSAR SCHAUMBURG, who, according to "La Nacion," of Valparaiso, will soon go to Germany to contract for machinery for the establishment.

The yearly consumption of condensed milk in Chile is given by the "Deutsche Export Zeitung" as 280,000 kilograms. This article is shipped by Great Britain and Germany in cases containing four dozen cans, weighing 500 grams each.

The Kosmos Steamship Company has extended its service to California. A cargo of wheat and flour recently brought from San Francisco by this line, destined to the ports of Guayaquil and Callao, sold well and gave satisfaction.

On April 17, 1900, the first beet-sugar factory ever established in Santiago, and one of the first in the Republic, was opened for business.

The director of Public Works and the Governor of Linares have been authorized to solicit bids for the construction of a bridge on the road from Linares to Yervas Buenas.

The Director of Public Works and the Governor of Parral have been requested to obtain bids for the reconstruction of the bridge called "Parral," on the Parral and Membrillo road.

It is reported that a project is on foot to build a canal connecting the bays of Talcahuano and San Vicente. The estimated cost is 10,000,000 *pesos*.

## MINING AND AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

There is much excitement among miners in the region of Loncomilla over the discovery of rich copper ores, some of which assay 60 per cent copper. A syndicate is being formed to investigate and work these deposits.

The Copaquire mines, which were purchased by GIBBS & Co. for £35,000, have been sold to the German Bank for £120,000. A company will be formed to operate them.

A report from Santiago says that during the year 1900, rich deposits of guano near Mejillones will be exploited by a stock company. It is expected that the yield the first year will amount to as much as £1,000,000. It is proposed to build a railway from Mejillones to Antofagasta.

Some 45,210 sacks of guano, weighing 4,166 tons, were shipped from Pisagua in December, 1899.

Caleta Nort, at the guano deposits of Punta Pichalo, has been declared a minor port of entry for Chile.

Considerable attention is being given to apiculture in Chile. The subject is being considered in a scientific manner, and a number of agriculturists have manifested much interest on this subject. The Republic is well adapted to bee culture, and doubtless good results will be obtained from this industry.

It is estimated that the present wheat crop will exceed that of last year by about 20 per cent.

#### COMMERCE WITH NEIGHBORING REPUBLICS.

The Consul of Ecuador at Valparaiso gives the following data concerning the commerce of Chile with Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia during the year 1899:

##### Importations from—

Peru .....	\$9, 776, 540
Ecuador .....	283, 152
Colombia .....	1, 166
Total .....	10, 060, 858

##### Exportations to—

Peru .....	\$3, 150, 982
Ecuador .....	571, 585
Colombia .....	410, 757
Total .....	4, 133, 324

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Bank of Chile, with a subscribed capital of \$40,000,000, has a paid-up capital of \$20,000,000 and a reserve fund of \$1,811,000. Its principal offices are in Santiago and Valparaiso, with branch offices in the principal towns of the Republic.

A concession has been granted to a Santiago company for the location of colonies of German immigrants at Puerto Montt, Osorno, Union, and Valdivia.

According to the report of the Brazilian Consul at Valparaiso, in 1898, Chilc imported 357,708 kilograms of coffee from Brazil.

A patent has been granted in Chile to VICTOR BELANGER, a resident of Massachusetts, for a spinning machine of his invention.

It is estimated that \$400,000 will be spent this year on the improvement of Valparaiso hospitals.

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## COLOMBIA.

### PANAMA CANAL CONCESSION EXTENDED.

A dispatch to the "Panama Star and Herald" from Bogotá, dated April 30, 1900, announces that the Government has granted to the Panama Canal Company an extension of its concession for a period of six years from April, 1904, or until April, 1910.

### NEW RAILWAY BRIDGES.

The Santa Marta Railroad Company has replaced the wooden bridge over the Manzanares River with a modern iron structure. This bridge has a span of 80 feet, and rests upon foundations of solid masonry. The iron bridge over the Rio Frio has recently been completed and placed at the service of the public. This bridge is said to have no equal among the the railroad bridges of the Republic. The bridge over the Sevilla River has also been completed.

### COAL MINES OF SAN JORGE.

The Government has taken steps to preserve the national coal mines of San Jorge. These mines have been abandoned for about a year on account of the death of the lessee, an Italian subject, and are now in a state of ruin. The Government will repair and operate them on its own account.

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## COSTA RICA.

### NEW MONETARY STANDARD.

The following decree was promulgated by the Government of Costa Rica at San José on April 17, 1900:

"Whereas, the economic condition of the country urgently demands, for its better organization and development, the establishment of the new monetary standard fixed by the coinage law of October 24, 1896;

"And whereas, the quantity of the new national gold money coined up to the present time, with that ordered by the Government which

will soon arrive in the country, is sufficient for commercial purposes, and, therefore, the time has come to place the same in circulation;

"And whereas, the Government has complied with the conditions specified in the Quiros-Coronado contract of September 25, 1896, with respect to the circulation of the gold *colon*, it, therefore, decrees:

"ARTICLE 1. On and after the 15th of July next all the gold certificates issued by the Government which are in circulation on that date must be presented to the Bank of Costa Rica, administrator of public rents, to be exchanged for gold.

"ART. 2. As the certificates are redeemed by the bank they shall be held subject to the orders of the Treasury Department; so that, after having been duly compared with the acts under which they were issued, they may be burned in the manner prescribed by law.

"ART. 3. All obligations existing on the 15th of next July, contracted in the national currency, shall be governed by the new gold *colon* in the proportion of 1 *colon* of gold for each silver dollar. The payment of all duties and taxes shall be made in the same proportion, and the national silver currency shall continue in circulation, with the reserve specified by the present monetary law."

#### COMMERCIAL PROSPERITY—GROWTH OF PORT LIMÓN.

A correspondent of the "New Orleans Picayune," writing from Port Limón under date of April 15, 1900, tells of the prosperity of Costa Rica, finds much to commend in the government of that country, and praises the city of Port Limón. Relative to the country and its government the writer says:

"Here where nature has lavished her richest gifts we find an advanced state of civilization and development which is not to be found in the same degree in other countries where the population and other advantages are so much greater. Liberal institutions based upon the principles of civil law, public instruction established in keeping with the progress of science, prosperous agricultural and mineral enterprises, railroads, telegraphs, telephones, and electric lights, drainage, sewerage, waterworks, and other industries are the means extensively promoted and used by the enterprising and energetic people of Costa Rica in their best efforts to attract to their shores the enterprising spirit of the people of the United States, and the intelligent activity of professionals and artisans from beyond the sea. This country well deserves the attention and serious consideration of capitalists and men of business of all classes, for here is to be found, if the future is to be judged by the past, abundant chance for safe returns on invested capital and labor."

Speaking of the changes that have been wrought within three or four years, the writer reports that they have been brought about by the enterprising spirit of progressiveness exhibited by the Costa Ricans working under a stable government.

Coffee, which for years has been the principal product of commerce, was first planted in Costa Rica in 1796. The original trees, from which all the trees of the country and even of Central America have been derived, the writer says, can yet be seen. England pays better prices than any other country for the finer grades of Costa Rican coffee, consequently the shipments to that country are very heavy. The annual export of coffee from this Republic is about 50,000,000 pounds. The number of coffee plantations is increasing constantly.

The shipments of bananas to the United States are very large. The first cargo ever sent from Costa Rica to the United States market was shipped in 1880, and consisted of 360 bunches. During a single week of April, 1900, there were shipped from Port Limón to New Orleans, six shiploads, carrying 111,350 bunches. Cocoa is extensively cultivated on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, also in the valley of the San Carlos. The tobacco grown in Costa Rica is very strong and aromatic. It was formerly extensively cultivated, and constituted an important branch of commerce, but, like the cocoa industry, it has in more recent years greatly declined, chiefly owing to the more remunerative character of the cultivation of coffee and bananas.

In describing Port Limón the correspondent says that the Port Limón of to-day is quite a different town from what it was previously. Instead of a well-drained and sewered municipality, with a population of 3,500 inhabitants, safely encompassed about by a 12-foot sea wall extending along the entire front of nearly 2 miles, three years ago there was presented to the occasional visitor from the deck of a steamer anchored out in the harbor a view of a fisherman's hamlet, most of the houses being constructed on piles and under which the daily tidal water ebbed and flowed. The inhabitants then fished, bringing from the Caribbean waters their sustenance, from the very places where to-day extend mighty wharves of steel, traversed by powerful railroad locomotives, over tracks of modern construction, carrying to large ocean steamers (some drawing as much as 32 feet of water) valuable cargoes of coffee, bananas, ores, and cabinet woods. Weekly steamers are now running to New Orleans, New York, London, Kingston, and Colon, and monthly steamers to the Mediterranean and Baltic ports.

Port Limón boasts of a first-class water supply from a 96-foot elevation. The water is brought into the city through iron pipes from a distance of over 8 miles. All of the houses constructed within the last few years have water supplied to their second floor. There are wide sidewalks, and the streets are well macadamized. At the expense of \$500,000 the Limón Improvement Company is now constructing a very modern iron warehouse and a wharf half a mile long, out to very deep water, where the heaviest draft ships afloat can discharge and take on

cargo. There is at present in operation in the city a very good ice factory and a carbonated-water manufactory.

The Limón Improvement Company, of which Mr. MINOR KIETH, a citizen of the United States, is the moving spirit, has put in the drainage, waterworks, and sea wall, besides having improved and graded the street, also having undertaken the construction of the iron wharf referred to. These improvements have thus far cost \$2,500,000, while \$600,000 is yet to be spent by this company in further improving the city and harbor.

During 1899 there were shipped from Port Limón 2,700,000 bunches of bananas. The writer averages these at \$1 a bunch.

#### LOAN FOR RAILWAY IMPROVEMENT.

The Belgian Legation in Central America writes that the notice inserted in the "Gaceta" (official journal of Costa Rica) of February 17, 1900, resulted in the Costa Rican Railway Company, represented at San José de Costa Rica by its general agent, Mr. ALEXANDER F. PIRIC, being authorized to make a third issue of preferred mortgage bonds to the amount of £200,000. This sum is to be entirely employed for the work and improvement of the railway, as follows:

New rolling material.....	£15, 000
Total reconstruction of the Virilla bridge and improvement of the road at this point.....	3, 000
Extension, completion, and equipment of the iron pier under construction at Limón .....	36, 000
Application of automatic brakes on all the rolling material.....	18, 000
Replacing of the rails and ties on the Guapiles branch road.....	35, 000
New station at San José.....	6, 000
New station at Limón.....	1, 000
Improvement in the stations and sheds on all the line.....	10, 000
Construction of a new repairing workshop at San José.....	12, 000
Construction of new branch lines.....	50, 000
Construction at San José of bureaus for the administrative service.....	5, 000
Incidentals.....	9, 000
Total.....	200, 000

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The "Diario Oficial," the official newspaper of the Republic, states in a recent number that an issue of \$97,000 Pacific Railway gold bonds has been authorized by the Government.

Mr. JUAN I. DE JONGH, of San José, was granted a patent (No. 648,169) on April 24, 1900, by the United States Patent Office for a "cane stripping and cutting machine."

The "Guatemala Herald" notes that the Supreme Court of Costa Rica has adopted a United States practice of reporting its conclusions.

An order has gone into effect permitting the free exportation of cattle for a period of three months.

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## ECUADOR.

### MINERAL RESOURCES AND MINING REGULATIONS.

The mines of Ecuador have long attracted attention. It is stated by Mr. C. VAN ISSCHOT, an eminent French metallurgist, that as early as 1549 the Spaniards began to work the rich mineral veins found near Zaruma, in the province of Del Oro, and they are to-day worked by a United States company. The placer mines near the rivers Santiago, Uimbi, and Cachabi, in the Province of Esmeraldas, were also early exploited, but these were all abandoned when slavery was abolished. The most attractive field thus far discovered is that of Zaruma and the Provinces southeast of Guayas.

A report on the Zaruma district in 1876, by Dr. WOLF, led to the formation of several companies, but none of them survived. Afterwards the "South American Development Company," of New York, was formed, and is now actively and successfully mining. The same can be said of the "National," a small native company. The district is about 60 miles from the coast, and is reached by very bad mountain roads, or trails, which make transportation slow, difficult, and expensive, especially during the rainy season. This is the most serious drawback, work being thereby greatly retarded. The mining in Zaruma is principally by drifts, and the mines are self-draining. There is also placer mines in the district, but they have received little attention.

Placer mines in Esmeraldas were worked under the Spaniards by slaves, afterwards abandoned, and, like Zaruma, are at present in the hands of a United States company. Results have been very disappointing thus far, but recent improvements in water supply and a change of management warrant hopes of future success.

Platinum is found in the washings of Esmeraldas in various quantities. There is, however, little data regarding silver. If any mines were worked during the period of the Spanish occupation, their locality has been lost. The ores exist in porphyritic formations, but they are hard to trace by reason of being either abandoned or buried; a few are known.

Deposits of copper are found in the Province of Loja, at Catacocha, but bad roads and remoteness preclude development. Others have been recently discovered in the Province of Azuay, 35 miles from the coast, at an altitude of about 5,000 feet. These deposits are believed to possess great value, and are now being developed. All conditions are favorable as regards location, fuel, water, labor, etc. It is believed that this is the most valuable mineral deposit in Ecuador.



No quicksilver mines are known to exist, but mercury in a metallic state has been found in various localities, even in the suburbs of Guayaquil, on the hill Santa Ana. The mercury is in too minute quantities to be worked, although found in a free state.

Petroleum was first noticed in the last century by VELASCO, a priest, who found the natives using it after its reduction to pitch. Deposits are found on the shores of the Pacific. In many places, in strata of schist, signs of bituminous substances are visible. The field, which seems quite rich, stretches horizontally and is of variable thickness. At a depth of 3 or 4 feet the earth is found of a dark brownish gray, like a sponge, saturated with salt water and petroleum.

Anthracite is found in the crystalline schist of Penipe, near Riobamba, in the neighborhood of Azogues, Loja, and Malacatos, in strata of tertiary formation. All are in the interior and valueless until reached by railroads.

Salt is obtained by the natives for domestic consumption, and rich strata of sulphur, mixed with sand, are also found. In 1874 a well was sunk by order of President MORENO, but was not driven to sufficient depths to show results. The Government has reserved for national benefit the parish of Santa Elena, and will invite bidders. Gypsum is found in the same formation.

Despite ample deposits, Ecuador is at the bottom of the list of South American Republics in gold production. "The Engineering and Mining Journal" places the amount produced in 1897 and 1898 at only 199.9 kilograms (440.7 pounds); but this is erroneous, as a portion is used locally and more leaves the Republic by way of Colombia. From June to October, 1899, the South American Development Company exported about \$36,000 worth; they are now shipping about \$7,500 per month. It is believed that this product will soon be doubled or trebled.

Under act of 1892, properties can be acquired by natives or foreigners by simple "denouncement" (preemption) before the local authorities. Claims can cover 600 meters (1,968½ feet) in length by 200 meters (656 feet) in width; for placer mines and coal fields, 50,000 square meters (12,355 acres). Twenty claims can be preempted by the same person. Possession is indefinite as to time if a \$25 annual tax is paid on claims worked, and \$8 on those not worked. Machinery and all mining supplies are exempt from customs duties, nor are any fiscal duties charged on concessions or sales.

#### JIPIJAPA OR PANAMA HATS.

The "Recueil Consulaire Belge" for 1899 says that Ecuador is the real home of the hats, wrongly designated under the name of "panama," and that this industry afterwards extended to Peru and other countries, even to Yucatan in Mexico. Everywhere in Latin America the hat is known under the name of "jipijapa," in honor of the city where its

manufacture was first started. It is only in Europe, or outside of the producing countries, that this hat receives the name of a city which does not make it.

The finest hats are made at Jipijapa and at Montecristi, in the Province of Manabi, this industry being one of the greatest resources of the country. The *toquilla*, or leaf of a small plant, is used for this purpose. It grows abundantly in the country, the leaves coming up in the shape of a fan. The plant is the *carludovica palmata*.

There are jipijapas of all qualities, from those costing a few *centavos* to those worth several hundred *suces*. The merit of these last, real marvels of fineness, consists as much in the scarcity of the straw as in the difficulty of the weaving, and therefore it is exceptional to find these hats on the general market. The hats of current sale cost a few *suces*, the finest not exceeding from 50 to 60 *suces* in price.

“In buying a panama it is necessary to ascertain two things—that the straw is whole and that it is not stiffened. It is not easy to recognize this first condition. In order to make two from one the weavers split the straw with such perfection that unless a person is accustomed to such examinations it is almost impossible for him to distinguish the difference. Of equal fineness, the hat made from whole straw is worth three or four times the one manufactured from the straw that has been split. The second condition is easily recognized, for the hats are stiffened to make the straw firmer and whiter. Good *toquilla* is white and stiff enough not to need any gum, and only ordinary panamas are stiffened.

The jipijapa is very strong and is the hat *par excellence* for durability, fineness, lightness, and elegance. The shape of the hat, invariably the same during so many years, has perhaps hindered it from coming into general use, but if the dealers would cooperate with the makers they could obtain all the shapes they would need to satisfy the whims of fashion.

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## GUATEMALA.

### GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTION.

The Republic of Guatemala is situated between 13° 42' and 17° 49' north latitude, and 88° 10' and 92° 30' longitude west from Greenwich. Its area is about 47,810 square miles. The greatest extension of the country is between the cordillera of the Andes and the Atlantic Ocean. This part of the country is the least populated, but its soil is considered of the greatest fertility. On the 31st of December, 1898, according to official figures, the entire population was 1,574,338, of whom 781,554 were men and 792,784 were women. The Republic is

divided into 22 Departments, of which Guatemala is the most populous and contains 160,914 people. The Department of Petén was the least populous, having but 7,197 inhabitants.

The Government of Guatemala is republican, democratic, and representative, and the supreme power of the nation comprises three divisions—executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive department is represented by the President and his Council, composed of a Cabinet of six Ministers. The Legislative Assembly includes one Deputy for each 20,000 inhabitants or fraction over 10,000. The judicial department is formed by the Supreme Court of Justice, including five Magistrates residing in the capital; five Courts of Appeal, each composed of three Magistrates and a “Fiscal,” of whom three reside in the capital, the fourth in Quezaltenango, and the fifth in Jalapa; and of six Judges of First Instance, one in the Department of Guatemala, three in that Quezaltenango, two in San Marcos, and one in each of the remaining Departments.

All immigrants established in the Republic are free from military service and may introduce free of duty, during four years, all machinery, etc., they may desire to use in their several occupations.

Under the Constitution, Guatemaltecos are divided into Guatemaltecos born and naturalized. Under article 5 the following are considered as Guatemaltecos born: (1) All those born in the territory of the Republic, whatever the nationality of the father, excepting the children of diplomatic and consular agents; (2) children of a Guatemalan father or illegitimate children of a Guatemalan mother born in a foreign country from the time they reside in the Republic, and even without this condition when it is in accordance with the laws of their birthplace. Under article 6 the inhabitants of any of the Central American Republics who express the desire before a competent authority to become citizens are also considered as Guatemaltecos born. Under article 7 the following are considered as naturalized: Spanish Americans resident in the Republic who do not reserve their nationality; all foreigners who have been naturalized according to law; those who obtain documents stating their naturalization.

Under article 8 all those are considered as citizens who belong to the following classes: (1) All Guatemaltecos of 21 years of age and upward, able to read and write, who possess an income or have some profession or employment which procures them a means of existence; (2) all those who belong to the army and are 18 years of age; (3) those who, being 18 years of age, have obtained some literary degree in the national schools. Under article 9 the rights of every citizen are the right to vote and the right to hold public office. Under article 10, in cases where the law exacts the quality of citizenship to exercise a public function, the latter may be conferred on foreigners who possess the other qualities required by law, and these foreigners may be nat-

uralized and become citizens in consequence of their acceptance of said functions.

Under article 11 the right of citizenship is suspended, lost, or restored according to law. Article 12 defines the obligations of all citizens of the Republic. They are: (1) To serve and defend their country; (2) to obey the law, respect the authorities, and conform to the rules of the police; (3) to contribute to the public expenses as required by law. Articles 13, 14, and 15 refer to the status of foreigners, who, on arriving in the territory of the Republic, are strictly enjoined to respect the authorities and to obey the laws of the country, for by so doing they acquire the right of being protected by them. Neither citizens of the Republic nor foreigners can, in any case, claim from the Government any indemnity for damages and injuries to their property or person caused by revolutions. Article 16 states that the authorities of the Republic have been established to insure all the inhabitants the possession of their rights, which are liberty, equality, and the security of their persons, honor, and property.

The powers of the nation are defined in article 17, which states that the Government officers are not the proprietors of, but simply trustees of authority, always subject to and never above the law, and are always responsible for their official conduct. Under article 18, primary education is made obligatory and free. By the provisions of article 19, every one is free to enter the territory of the Republic, to reside in or to leave it, save in cases provided by law. Under article 20, industry is made free; authors and inventors can enjoy the sole benefit of their labors for a period not exceeding fifteen years. The executive power may authorize concessions for a term not exceeding ten years to those who introduce or establish new industries in the Republic. Under article 21, every inhabitant is guaranteed the right to lawfully dispose of his property. The rights of primogeniture, however, are absolutely prohibited, as are all gifts to any institution, excepting benevolent establishments.

Under article 22, all inhabitants of the Republic, whether natives or foreigners, have the right to petition the Government, but the army can neither hold meetings nor address petitions. Article 23 concedes the right of all the inhabitants of the Republic to bring suit in the courts of the country in the forms prescribed by law. Foreigners may not appeal to diplomatic intervention, except in cases of denial of justice. Article 24 permits the exercise of every religion in church edifices, without prominence given to any, but this free exercise can not extend to acts or practices contrary to peace or public order, nor give the right to oppose the fulfillment of civil and political obligations. Under article 25, the right of association and of meeting peacefully and without arms is guaranteed, but the establishment of convents and of monastic institutions is prohibited. Freedom of spoken,

written, and printed opinions is permitted, but abuses of this privilege are to be adjudged by a jury.

Under article 27, the inhabitants are guaranteed the right to give or receive instructions in any establishment they may select not supported by the nation. Under article 28, property is declared inviolable. Expropriation proceedings can be instituted only for motives of public interest, legally proven, in which case the owner can receive the full value of his property before the transfer thereof. In time of war the indemnity may not be paid in advance. Under article 29, it is declared that every service which by virtue of law can not be rendered gratuitously shall be properly remunerated. Article 30 provides that no person can be arrested or imprisoned except for offenses against or violation of the law, and article 31 provides that any person arrested must be examined within forty-eight hours, and that his detention may not exceed five days within which time the authority ordering the arrest shall either justify the imprisonment or set the prisoner free. Article 32 provides that no person may be kept incomunicado except in cases and for the length of time prescribed by law, and article 33 provides that no order for imprisonment can be issued without summary information proving that a crime has been committed. Article 34 provides for the recognition of the right of habeas corpus. Articles 36 exempts persons from testifying in criminal cases against himself, his wife, parents, children, or brother.

The privilege of defending one's person and rights (according to articles 37 and 38) are inviolable, and no person can be tried before a special tribunal. The correspondence and private papers of citizens are also inviolable, as is also the private domicile. The courts must determine what constitutes exceptional cases, whereby the authorities can enforce an entrance into the domicile and to detain and open letters and private documents. Article 39 provides that in case "the territory of the Republic is attacked or invaded, or the peace and order is threatened in any way, the President may suspend, by a decree, the guaranties of individuals expressed above, explaining at the same time whether the suspension is applied to the whole Republic or to one or to several of its departments. He must account for his action in this respect to the Legislative Assembly in its future sessions."

#### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF 1898.

The following data respecting the agricultural products of Guatemala have been obtained from the report of the Department of Statistics of that country, which was issued the latter part of the year 1899:

From the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1898, there were harvested 270,807.49 quintals of "café en oro" (clean coffee) and 362,290.80 quintals of "café en pergamino" (coffee in parchment) pro-

duced from 67,808,671 trees, covering an area of 47,895 acres. The statistician of the Department says: "As will be seen from the number of trees and the quantity of the crop, the average yield is about 1 pound per tree. Although data have not been furnished this Department with the regularity desired, nor with the exactitude required by such an important branch of industry, the foregoing is approximately correct."

From the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1898, there were produced 113,569 quintals of sugar, 141,620 loads of brown sugar in cakes (64 cakes in each load), 1,910,669 gallons of molasses, and 34,829 quintals of raw sugar as the production obtained from the cultivation of 12,138 acres of sugar cane.

During the year 1898 there were harvested 56,720 bushels of wheat from a cultivated area of 8,186 acres.

There were produced 5,161 bushels of oats during the year from an extension of cultivated ground embracing 272 acres.

During the year 1898 there were harvested 4,147 bushels of barley in an area comprising 246 acres.

The quantity of potatoes produced was 11,558.63 quintals from 700 acres of land.

Rice, one of the principal necessities of life, was never included in the statistics until the year 1898, when a crop was obtained amounting to 3,711.75 quintals from 1,223 acres.

In 1898, 1,354,333 bushels of corn were gathered from 65,902 acres of ground.

The area cultivated for beans in 1898 comprised 4,638 acres, from which a crop was obtained amounting to 46,145 bushels.

Cacao, one of the important articles of exportation, was cultivated within an area embracing 2,253 acres, containing 1,251,829 trees, from which a crop amounting to 1,871.84 quintals was obtained.

There were 5,591 acres of bananas under cultivation in 1898, producing a crop amounting to 910,501 bunches.

Up to December 31, 1898, there were in the Republic grazing lands covering an area of 285,048 acres.

Live-stock statistics were first included in the reports of the Republic in 1898. From these the following data was obtained: Number of cattle, 196,768; horses, 50,343; sheep, 77,593; hogs, 29,784.

From the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1898, there were gathered 9,341.21 quintals of tobacco from an area of 546 acres. Only 10,791,305 plants out of a total of 14,102,082 matured. There were no data received from the departments of Chimaltenango and Izabal concerning this industry.

The number of farms existing in the Republic is 25,596, which embrace a total uncultivated area of 954,077 acres.

**NEW TELEGRAPH LINE.**

The "Guatemala Herald" says a large amount of telegraphic material has arrived from the United States in the last few months and that the line between Gualan and Puerto Barrios is to be built at once. El Progreso and La Reforma, in the Department of San Marcos, are also to be united by a telegraph line.

**CHANGES IN TARIFF RATES.**

The President of Guatemala, in his recent message to Congress, calls attention to the fact that cattle has been placed on the free list, and that while some export articles have been declared dutiable, the importation duties on foreign merchandise have been reduced one-half.

Of the importations into Guatemala during the year 1898, 18 per cent were from Great Britain, 24 per cent from Germany, and 39 per cent from the United States.

**HONDURAS.****ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.**

The economic situation of Honduras, according to a French report, is at present most satisfactory. Its imports last year amounted to about \$1,600,000, three-fourths of which were introduced through Amapala and Puerto Cortes and the remainder through Trujillo, La Ceiba, and Roatan. The importation through Puerto Cortes, which was almost as important as that through Amapala, has a tendency to exceed that of all the other ports.

The exports reached \$4,782,686, distributed as follows:

Precious metals.....	\$1,757,142
Fruits (bananas, cocoanuts, oranges, etc.).....	1,282,458
Wood (mahogany, cedar, mora).....	497,409
Cattle (exports to Cuba and Belize).....	273,819
Coffee .....	138,545
Hides .....	121,255
Rubber .....	87,040
Cattle, tobacco, coffee, and indigo exported to Central America.....	500,000

Gold and silver constitute the principal articles of export. This is not to be wondered at, considering that Honduras is practically one immense mine of incalculable value, as has been proved by the rich zones of Las Quebradas, Sensenti, Olancho, Yoro, Minas de Oro, El Dorado, Caratasca, and others containing fabulous wealth.

The mining industry of Honduras is the one which of all others probably offers the greatest chance of success to foreign capital, the soil being not only rich in gold and silver, but also in copper, lead,

zinc, iron, etc. The only obstacle in the way of the development of this industry is the lack of good means of communication, but this is gradually being remedied, the building and improvement of the roads being the main object of the Government.

A recent decree has declared the iron mine of Agualtaca, which appears to be the richest of the country, to be Government property. The iron, in greater part magnetic, contains 69 per cent of pure metal and is superior for the making of steel, as it contains no phosphorus, but, on the other hand, a small quantity of sulphur; it exists in such great abundance that the deposits at the surface of the soil would suffice to supply the exploitation during fifty years. Offers for the leasing and exploitation of this mine would be favorably received by the Government.

#### **CANALIZATION OF THE PATUCO RIVER.**

“La Republica,” of Guatemala City, states that Señor Don FRANCISCO LE BARON, representing a United States company which was granted a concession two years ago by the Government of Honduras to canalize the Patuco River, has presented to the National Congress a contract modifying the former contract and asking for 1,922,857 hectares of land; “that is to say, nearly 7,000 square miles, or one-sixth the area of the Republic.”

#### **PUBLIC SCHOOL STATISTICS.**

“La Instrucción Primaria,” a monthly periodical published at Tegucigalpa, says that there are now 627 public primary schools for both sexes in that Republic and 69 private schools. In 1894 there were only 449 public schools. This makes an average increase of 36 schools per year, a very satisfactory showing. The total number of scholars at the present time is 29,690. In 1894 there were 16,072 scholars, the average increase being 2,809 per year. It is to be observed that there were twice as many boys in attendance as there were girls.

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## **MEXICO.**

### **MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DÍAZ.**

On April 1, 1900, Gen. PORFIRIO DÍAZ, President of Mexico, delivered his message at the opening of the fourth session of the Nineteenth Congress. The following important passages are taken from this able document:

#### **GENERAL PROGRESS.**

With respect to administrative improvements and the general condition of the country, there have not been any great innovations to



mention in this message, for, fortunately, the steady and progressive development of public wealth and the consequent prosperity of the nation are not new. But, with respect to material improvements achieved, that colossal work, the aspiration of so many centuries, destined to drain off and control the waters of this valley, where the capital of the Republic is situated, stands forth in striking prominence. Moreover the preservation of peace and order, which is still capable of working other miracles, and the gradual improvement of the administration in its several branches, are facts that can not be concealed and at which every Mexican ought to rejoice, while recognizing the influence which the wisdom and patriotism in the people's representatives have exercised in those achievements.

#### FINANCIAL CONDITIONS.

With respect to the Finance Department, the Executive takes particular pleasure in informing you that the resources of the Federal Treasury continue to expand rapidly and that the progress of all the services appertaining to said Department remain satisfactory. During the first half of the present fiscal year the revenue reached the figure of \$31,000,000, which is more than two and a half millions in excess of the revenue during the same period of 1898-99. This result surpasses considerably the estimates of the Executive of the increase in public revenue. And this proof of the growing energies of the country is all the more remarkable and gratifying in that it has been maintained over a relatively long period, without any halt or retrogression being perceptible in the prosperity of any of the manifestations of national activity.

As usual the custom-houses and the stamp tax have been the principal sources of increase in the revenue. The value of importations from abroad in the half year in question was \$59,000,000, and the duties collected thereon amounted to \$13,750,000, or nearly \$1,500,000 in excess of the duties collected in the same period of the previous year. Although there was a slight diminution in the exportation of domestic articles, owing to a larger amount of coined silver having been retained in the country, nevertheless said exportation yielded to the treasury from the few articles whose exportation is subject to duties a slightly higher revenue than was obtained in the previous period. Finally, those taxes that are paid in the form of stamps and which form part of the stamp revenue also show an increase of \$1,000,000 in the period under review. The satisfactory results obtained from the collection of taxes will assuredly enable the Executive to continue the financial policy which it has followed for some time past, especially during the last few months, viz, of proposing to the Legislature or decreeing, when it has powers therefor, suitable measures for the improvement of certain public services which it may be desirable to extend, as well

as to afford some relief to taxpayers by abolishing or diminishing those taxes which are heaviest or most troublesome.

#### MINING.

The operation of mines in the Republic was for a long period confined to the so-called precious metals—silver, principally, and gold. At present there are many companies of great importance that are engaged in the exploitation of other metals. Copper is being discovered in new regions, and its exploitation is on the increase, as is also that of lead. The production of antimony is of recent date, and iron now occupies the attention of capitalists and is being exploited more energetically, and there is also an increase in the production of mercury, sulphur, coal, onyx, marble, and opals. The number of mining titles issued during the period covered by this report was 1,303, covering 13,973 *pertenencias* of 1 hectare. Notwithstanding the fact that many concessioners have forfeited their concessions, there were, at the close of the last calendar year, 9,594 mining properties with 91,591 *pertenencias* of 1 hectare each paying the mining tax.

#### COLONIZATION.

Since my last report 241,000 hectares of national land have been reduced to private property through denunciations, through sales to private parties and colonists, through free grants to poor farmers, and through the division and distribution of commons. In the matter of colonization it is necessary to mention the entrance into the Republic of 380 colonists of Russian nationality, who, for the present, have established themselves on lands of private ownership in the State of Chiapas. The Government has granted to them the customary franchises of the colonization law in the form of a concession, and has also bestowed on them a tract of national land in the same State. It is probable that other families of the same nationality will settle there.

#### PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The fact that 60,500 pupils were entered during the last scholastic year in the primary and superior primary schools of the federal district and territories, and that 6,168 are entered in the preparatory and professional schools, is a guarantee of the fact that official education is eagerly sought after, and that the efforts of the Executive to improve and diffuse it in all its branches, and in the various applications of science and art, are amply appreciated, thus warranting cheerful prognostications as to the intellectual future of our country.

#### INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN CONFERENCE.

The Bureau of the American Republics established in Washington has suggested the desirability of said Republics holding another con-

ference in the capital city of one of them other than Washington. In this connection the Secretary of State at Washington, in a conversation with our Ambassador, expressed the desire that this capital should be the meeting place. For our part we have stated that Mexico will not only have no objection, but will take positive pleasure in receiving in this city the delegates of the American Continent, if the respective Governments so desire.

#### RAILROAD SYSTEM.

Since September last the railroad system of the Republic has increased by 345 kilometers, the following being the companies which have chiefly contributed to this increase: The Chihuahua and Pacific, 141 kilometers; the International, 60 kilometers; the Xico and San Rafael, 27 kilometers; the Central, 48 kilometers, on the lines from Yurecuaro to Ario and from La Vega to San Marcos; the Mineral Railway of Chihuahua, 22 kilometers; the remainder having to be credited to the other railway companies. The railway system of the Republic now aggregates 13,714 kilometers, including 193 kilometers of private branches connecting with Federal lines, and 432 kilometers of State tramways. In the month of February last the electric street cars between Mexico and Tacubaya and Mexico and Guadalupe were inaugurated. Among noteworthy engineering works the bridge of the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific Railway over the Mexcala River is to be mentioned.

#### CREATION OF BONDED WAREHOUSES.

The Belgian Legation in Mexico reports the following résumé of a law which has been published officially in Mexico, and which in all probability will prove of great importance for the import trade of the Republic:

This law authorizes the establishment of bonded warehouses, whose object, as their name indicates, is to receive on deposit and to store the national or foreign merchandise which will be intrusted to them. These establishments will issue certificates of deposit upon which money can be advanced. They are not to be State institutions, but private banking enterprises, and as such subject to all the stipulations of the banking law of March 19, 1897. They are to be of two kinds—one for national merchandise and the other for foreign merchandise upon which no duties have been paid.

This is a very important innovation, for up to the present time the warehouse system was unknown in Mexico. The importing merchants had to pay custom duties on all the merchandise they brought into the country as soon as landed. Thus they were obliged to immediately pay sometimes as much as 100 per cent, or more, of the value of articles whose sale was uncertain, or on which they could not hope to realize under several months. Now they can leave these articles in

storage, the only restriction being that if they are not taken out within a year the duties must be paid just as if they were withdrawn for consumption.

There will also be rooms in these warehouses especially set apart for the exhibition of samples of goods. Goods which, according to the tariff law, would be subject to customs duties need not pay them until the end of two years.

The new law is due to the initiative taken by a group of financiers, at the head of which is an enterprising United States citizen residing in Chihuahua. The Central Bank of Mexico has entered into the combination. This bank was founded last year, in large part with German capital. The Deutsche Bank and other private banks are interested in it. Although, according to the law, the bonded warehouse enterprise is open to all who fulfill the conditions, it seems that the financiers above referred to will succeed in holding the monopoly.

### IMPORTANT STATISTICAL PUBLICATION.

There was recently issued in the city of Mexico a statistical statement of great merit, compiled by General DON INOCENCIO CUCALON. The work consists of a statement of comparison demonstrating the progress of Mexico in the last fifteen years. The publication has been revised, it is claimed, by a special committee appointed by the Secretary of Encouragement, and the data contained therein is official. There are about 700 items in the statement comprising the progress attained in the different departments of the Government, the values referred to being in Mexican currency unless otherwise specified.

The work has reference to the Federal Government in general. The precision and clearness of the work make it the more interesting. A few of the items of interest are as follows:

In the fiscal year 1883-84 there were 9 Foreign Legations in Mexico. There were 13 such legations in 1898-99.

The total expenses of the Foreign Department in 1883-84 amounted to \$347,219.87, against \$498,245.38 in 1898-99.

There were 234 printing offices in 1883-84, against 431 operating in 1898-99. Two hundred and fifteen newspapers were published in 1883-84, while 604 were published in 1898-99.

There were 3 correctional institutions in 1883-84, against 13 in the last fiscal year. The number of hospitals in 1883-84 was 117, while they numbered 237 in 1898-99. The sum of \$369,496.39 was spent in benevolent institutions in 1883-84, \$974,392.55 spent in 1898-99.

The maintenance of the city police cost \$1,472,437.20 in 1883-84. It cost \$2,039,932.58 to support that body in 1898-99.

The revenues derived from cotton mills amounted to \$11,723,628 in 1883-84. They produced \$28,242,766.53 in 1898-99.

The total production of mining in general amounted to \$43,229,000 in 1883-84. The products for 1898-99 amounted to \$131,964,000.

The fiscal value of city property was estimated at \$188,996,217 in 1883-84. Its value in 1898-99 was estimated at \$319,564,480.38.

The imports into the country amounted to \$23,250,603 in gold in 1883-84, against \$50,869,149 in 1898-99. The exports in 1883-84 amounted in silver to \$46,726,496.42, against \$148,453,834 in 1898-99. The exportation of coffee in 1883-84 amounted to \$1,579,020.83. The value of the same product amounted to \$18,711,325 in 1898-99. The exportation of tobacco for 1883-84 was valued at \$307,969.85, against \$3,410,306 in 1898-99.

The stamp tax yielded \$4,773,214.27 in 1883-84, while in 1898-99 it yielded \$23,250,141.94. The income of the Federal Government in 1883-84 amounted to \$37,621,065.29, against \$60,275,183.52 in the year of 1898-99.

The light-houses existing in 1883-84 numbered 9, while in 1898-99 there were 34. There were only 12 wharves or docks in 1883-84, against 47 in 1898-99.

The post-offices handled 10,488,518 pieces of mail matter in 1883-84, against 117,452,675 pieces in 1898-99.

There were only 388 telephones in 1883-84; in 1898-99 there were 7,190 apparatuses. The telegraph offices numbered 327 in 1883-84, against 881 in 1898-99.

The Federal District street cars in 1883-84 carried 10,101,302 passengers, while in 1898-99 they carried 21,236,097.

The railroad lines had 209 stations in 1883-84, against 802 in 1898-99. The railroads of the Republic carried 3,075,792 passengers in 1883-84, while in 1898-99 they carried 31,005,094. The same lines carried in 1883-84 freight weighing 904,973 tons, against 6,018,724 in 1898-99.

The ports collected port duties from 1,689 ships in 1883-84, while in 1898-99 the ships entering Mexican ports numbered 6,900.

#### NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS.

The "Two Republics" says that prominent men of science in the City of Mexico are making preparations for a scientific congress to be held in that city about the end of the current year. The board of directors has been organized with Dr. EDUARDO LICEAGA as president and Mr. FRANCISCO L. DE LA BARRA as secretary.

All the scientific associations of the country will be invited in time to appoint their respective representatives. The main purpose of the congress is to encourage scientific studies and investigations and to examine the advancements obtained in the Nineteenth Century. The following associations are called upon to be represented: Mexican Academy of Languages, correspondent of the Royal Academy of

Madrid; Academies of Medicine and Legislation and Jurisprudence, correspondent of the Academy of Madrid; Society of Natural Sciences; Society of Engineers and Architects; Society of Geography and Statistics; Medical Society "Pedro Escobedo"; Mexican Bibliographical Institute; National Medical Institute; Geological Institute; Scientific Association "Antonio Alzate," etc. The associations named are established in the capital, and it is expected that those in the interior of the Republic will also all be represented.

### THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The "Nouveau Monde," Paris, gives the following information regarding the total production of sugar in Mexico in 1899:

This production rose to 50,000,000 tons of refined sugar. The quantity of *piloncillo*, or brown sugar, made last year is not specified, but it was considerable.

All the sugar produced in Mexico has been consumed in the Republic, with the exception of a small quantity of *casonade* which was exported. The total value of the sugar produced exceeded \$70,000,000, Mexican. This is regarded by the French as small, for, in their opinion, Mexico should rank with the principal sugar-producing countries. At present the production of this article is less than the consumption, and sugar is relatively dearer here than anywhere else. However, the cane grows marvelously in all the warm lands and in a good part of the temperate regions. But at present it is only in the State of Morelos that the sugar industry has reached a relative importance, although the land is much less suited—especially in the northern part—to this culture than in the other southern States of the Republic. On the other hand, the rich landholders of Morelos have never pushed the production beyond certain limits, their object, it is alleged, being to control the market and prices in Mexico.

"This situation is going to change, for important foreign companies, the greater part French, have been organized to exploit in the *Huastecas* extensive lands, transforming them into canefields. These companies are now having large factories put up, which will in a few years be in full production, and then the valuation will soon exceed the comparatively small figures of the present time."

### NEW TARIFF CLASSIFICATIONS.

Recent changes in the classification of goods under the Mexican customs tariff have been as follows:

"Iron or steel goods of all kinds, with accessories of silk, or of cloth containing silk, or of leather, not elsewhere specified in the tariff (even when enameled, tinned, or nickled, or with ornaments not being of precious metal) are to be classed under article 277 of the tariff law, and pay duty at the rate of 60 cents per kilogram.

"Husks of almonds are to be classed under article 205 of the tariff; duty 5 cents per kilogram, gross weight.

"Cotton or hemp cloth, treated with pitch and perforated, for joining bands for the transmission of motion in machinery, when not coming attached to such bands (even when containing a core of rubber), to be classed under article 860 of the tariff; duty 10 cents per kilogram, gross weight."

#### **EFFORTS TO SECURE THE BELIZE TRADE.**

The "British Trade Journal" of April 1, 1900, says:

"While the Crown Agents for the Colonies are drafting agreements, a process which has been going on since last September, the Mexican Government is actively developing its railway system near British Honduras, with a view to capturing the trade with Belize. Latest advices from the colony inform us that the Mexicans are about to dredge north of Bacalor Chico and that an eminent New York firm is financing the scheme. A canal is to be made to the mouth of the Hondo, north of Belize, in Yucatan, and across the bar, thus enabling vessels drawing 15 feet to enter from seaward. The consequence will be that business from the north of the British colony and from a large section of Yucatan will go that way to the coast, to the injury of Belize, and naturally imports will also be attracted to a port in railway communication with the interior. Meanwhile the proposals for a railway from Belize to the Guatemalan frontier are suspended, because the Crown Agents have not completed an agreement, which, had it been forthcoming last September or October, would by this time have led to the construction of a portion of the line."

#### **ITALIAN COMMERCIAL AGENCY.**

It is announced that an Italian commercial agency is soon to be established in Mexico under the auspices of several Chambers of Commerce of Italy. The object of this agency is to suppress certain intermediaries in the sale of Mexican products in Italy.

#### **VISIT OF NORMAL SCHOOL PUPILS**

A dispatch to the "New Orleans Picayune" says that on Monday, May 7, 1900, a class of the more advanced pupils of the Veracruz State Normal School left Jalapa for a trip to the United States. It was their intention to visit Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, Niagara Falls, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington. The journey was planned by Governor DE PESOA, the chief magistrate of the State of Veracruz, in order that the future school teachers of his State should become acquainted with all that is notable in the neighboring Republic. The party will visit the various national institutions and schools of the

United States, while the expenses of the trip are to be paid by the State of Veracruz, which has always shown a most progressive spirit in everything pertaining to education. The "Picayune" says that in times past Governor DE PESOA has personally paid the expenses of many bright youths of his State while they were in Europe securing a higher education.

#### PRODUCTION OF COTTON-SEED OIL.

The average annual production of cotton-seed oil in Mexico during the past few years, according to the report of Mr. P. MERRILL GRIFFITH, United States Consul at Matamoras, has been about 3,306,909 pounds. The consumption in 1899 was, as near as can be determined, 30,864,400 pounds. The price has averaged nearly 12 cents per pound. Inasmuch as the crop in Mexico, as well as in the United States, has been below the average, and there is a strong probability, owing to the scarcity of rainfall in the cotton-growing sections of Mexico, of another short crop, the prospects for the oil trade with the United States during the coming years are bright. The Consul says that in the manufacture of soap this oil has no competitor, but that both the castor bean and the *coyol*, on account of their hardness, may be cultivated in such quantities in the near future as to affect the market. In fact, some of the latest improved machinery for extracting the oil from castor beans has recently been purchased and will be used to refit a plant near Durango, which has been operating for the past two years with unsatisfactory apparatus.

#### SOAP AND OIL FACTORY AT TORREÓN.

The Legislature of the State of Coahuila has published a decree approving a contract made by the Governor with JOSÉ FARGAS, an engineer representing La Union Company, for the establishment of a soap and oil factory in Torreón. The oil is to be made from the cotton seed or from any other vegetable or mineral substance which may be found available for the purpose. The charter is for twenty years, during which time the factory, appurtenances, and products are to be exempt from all State and municipal taxation. The capital to be invested is \$2,000,000, Mexican, and the construction of the factory must have been begun in six months, and be finished and in operation within eighteen months from February 26, 1900, the date of the Legislature's decree.

#### THE STATE OF MEXICO.

The State of Mexico, which adjoins the Federal District (which corresponds to the District of Columbia in the United States), is rich in agricultural and mining resources. Its superficial area is 20,300 square kilometers, while it has a population of a little more than 800,000



people. The capital of this State is Toluca, a city remarkable for its cleanliness, wide streets, beautiful parks, fine public buildings, and handsome residences. Connected as it is with the City of Mexico by the National Railway, it is but a pleasant excursion to run over to Toluca, as the distance is but 73 kilometers or little more than two hours' ride through most enchanting scenery.

The Governor of the State of Mexico, Gen. JOSÉ VINCENTE VILLADA, recently forwarded his annual message to the Legislature of the State, from which the following facts regarding education are obtained:

Within the State are 1,056 schools, all of which are maintained at public expense except 6. The number of pupils of both sexes is 52,345. Of these 35,903 presented themselves for public examination; 31,696 passed and 4,207 failed. The number of public schools has increased about 18 per cent within the last nine years.

#### COMMERCE WITH SPAIN.

"El Observador," of Mexico, states that a large increase has been effected in regard to the exportation of Mexican products and different articles to Spain. This paper makes a comparison between the month of August, 1899, when the exports amounted to \$142,171, and the same month in 1898, when the exports were only worth \$95,102. The importation of Spanish goods into the Republic for the month of August, 1899, amounted to \$170,808, which was an excess of \$114,213 over the value of the Spanish articles imported in the same month in 1898.

#### DRAINAGE OF VERACRUZ.

The "Journal of Commerce" notes that work had begun in April on the main drainage of the city of Veracruz, according to designs by WILLIAM FOX, sanitary engineer. Owing to the fact that this city is elevated but a little above sea level, the drainage scheme has to be a pumping one. The sewage will be delivered through an iron pipe laid along the northwestern breakwater, so as to discharge the sewage into the channel through the coral reefs outside of the harbor and to the north of San Juan de Ulloa.

#### MEXICAN CENTRAL RAILWAY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The twentieth annual report of the Mexican Central Railway has been made public. It shows gross earnings of \$15,602,065, an increase over the previous year of \$2,013,099. The expenses were \$10,402,970, an increase of \$1,241,538, making the net earnings, in Mexican currency, \$5,199,095, an increase of \$771,561. In United States currency the net earnings were \$2,516,961. The company is able to show a surplus of \$99,198, as against a deficit of \$413,223 in 1898. The increased surplus amounts to \$512,421, and the year's surplus was placed to the

credit of the equipment fund in order that condemned and destroyed equipment might be replaced. To the gross gain the following contributed: Local freight, \$1,175,680; international freight, \$420,266; local passenger business, \$309,554; international passenger business, \$503; baggage, express, telegraph, and miscellaneous items, \$91,116.

The annual meeting of the directors of the Mexican Central Railway was held in Boston on May 2, 1900. The directors were all reelected. Mr. A. A. ROBINSON, president of the company, stated that the railroad now has four branch lines under construction, comprising a total of 260 miles. The line to the Pacific coast is to be completed within three or four years. Valuable concessions and subsidies have been received from the Mexican Government for the construction of extensions. Betterments, amounting to several hundred thousand dollars, are charged to operating expenses for 1899.

#### **MEXICAN CORPORATIONS CHARTERED IN THE UNITED STATES.**

The "North American Turquoise Syndicate" was recently organized according to the laws of the State of New Jersey to mine turquoise in Mexico. The "New York Commercial" states that the syndicate has a capital of \$1,000,000, which is to be increased to \$30,000,000 if necessary.

The "Mexican Coffee and Rubber Growers' Association" was granted a charter by the State of Delaware on May 4. This company was organized by New York and Philadelphia capitalists with a capital of \$5,000,000. According to the statements of those interested, they have secured large concessions from the Mexican Government and own extensive tracts of land in southern Mexico which are to be developed immediately. Under the charter the association has power to build and operate railways and public works of every description.

A charter was granted at Topeka, Kans., on May 1, 1900, to the "Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company," of which Mr. A. E. STILLWELL, of Kansas City, is the promoter. This is a line which it is proposed to build, in connection with lines already under construction in Mexico, from Kansas City to the Gulf of California, the Pacific terminus to be Topolobampo. The authorized capital is \$25,000,000. The promoters paid a cash fee of \$2,727 for the charter.

#### **TRADE IN JEWELRY.**

As the prosperity of Mexico increases, the importation of articles of voluntary use, or luxuries, by the citizens is bound to increase. In fact there has already been an augmentation noted in the purchase of such articles. Among those embraced in that category are jewelry and watches. During the fiscal year 1898-99 the total value of the importations of jewelry was \$153,955, while the importation of watches was valued at \$44,425.

Although the United States has as yet but a small share of the jewelry trade of Mexico (including watches under this general heading), there can be no doubt that with a thorough systematic study of the demands of the people the proportion for the United States can be greatly increased. Near the northern border of Mexico the greater part of the foreign ornaments and timepieces in use are of United States manufacture, but the farther south one travels the greater becomes the preponderance of French articles, though in some localities most of the jewelry comes from Germany. The reason assigned for this is that the European houses give longer terms of credit than United States firms, though the tendency is just now toward shorter terms.

The import duty on jewelry, clocks, and watches is as follows: Clocks of all kinds (excepting tower clocks), inclusive of the weight of all inside boxes and wrappers, excelsior, etc., 36 cents per kilogram; watches, repeaters of gold, or gold plated, with precious stones, each, \$6.72; the same, but not repeaters, \$3.36; repeaters of silver, or other metal \$2.40; the same, but not repeaters, 48 cents; repeaters of silver or other metal or parts of gold or plated with gold, \$2.88; the same, but not repeaters, 96 cents. Jewelry of gold or platinum, or composed of both, set with pearls and precious stones, per kilogram, net, \$36; the same without pearls and precious stones, \$24; jewelry of silver or of silver and gold, set with pearls and precious stones, \$24; the same without pearls and precious stones, \$4.80. In addition there is a surtax of  $10\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on all duties.

#### STEEL WHARF AT TAMPICO.

It is reported from Tampico that one of the largest contracts let in Mexico for some years had just been closed in that city on April 29, 1900. This was for the construction of a new steel wharf for the Mexican Central Railroad Company. The amount involved is \$1,000,000, and the contract was secured by the Missouri Valley Bridge Company of the United States. The wharf is to be 29 feet long, 800 feet wide, and to be partly covered by an iron shed. It is estimated that besides an immense quantity of lumber, 2,000,000 pounds of steel will be used.

#### NEW SMELTER AT TORREÓN.

Several mining men from the United States and Mexico are reported by the "New York Commercial" to have organized a company with a capital of \$2,000,000 to erect and operate a large smelter near the city of Torreón. M. GEIST, who erected the Guggenheim smelter at Monterey and the Omaha-grant smelter at Vilardeña, is the principal stockholder of the company. Torreón is at the junction of the Mex-

ican Central and the Mexican International Railroads and is near the richest mining district of Mexico.

#### **ASPHALT PAVING IN THE CITY OF MEXICO.**

The contract between the City of Mexico and the Barbour Asphalt Company, of the United States, for the paving of 75 of the principal streets of that city with asphalt, was approved by the city council on April 26, 1900. The company will use three classes of material, to be known as A, B, and C. The following prices will be paid for the work: Class A, \$11 (Mexican) per square meter; Class B, \$10; Class C, \$9. The company binds itself to keep the streets in good repair for ten years. One-half the amount of the contract is to be paid when the streets are accepted by the Commissioner of Public Works and the remainder within ten years, in yearly installments. The company has deposited \$75,000 in the municipal treasury as a guaranty.

#### **CONCESSIONS OF PUBLIC LANDS.**

During the first six months of 1899, from July 1 to December 31, the Ministry of Fomento granted 182 concessions of public lands. The total extent of these lands amounted to 133,665 hectares 10 ares 90 centares, and the amount received by the Government from their sale was \$149,877.22.

These lands are distributed (in hectares) as follows, with regard to the States and Territories:

Lower California, 12,042; Campeche, 4,339; Chiapas, 31,516; Chihuahua, 35,253; Durango, 1,492; Oaxaca, 9,798; Sinaloa, 79; Sonora, 21,701; Tabasco, 10,348; Tamaulipas, 600; Yucatan, 1,092; total, 133,665.

#### **MORMON COLONIES.**

The arrival a few days ago of some 500 Mormons from Utah to join the Mormon colonies in Chihuahua has attracted attention to the prosperous condition of these settlements, which are wholly dedicated to farming, says the "Two Republics" in its issue for April 6, 1900. The construction of the Rio Grande, Sierra Madre and Pacific Railway, though it does not touch the colonies, has had a great influence upon the prosperity and development of the colonies, especially Juarez and Dublan, which are easily accessible from the railway. It is now proposed to build a branch from the Casas Grandes station to Juarez and Dublan. Those just arrived have settled in the Colonia Dublan. Bricks for building their houses are scarce, and they are temporarily living in adobe huts. They are nearly all agriculturists; a few only are mechanics, carpenters, and masons. Each colony has its school, where the children of the Mormons and of the Mexicans

who are with them mix together with perfect fraternity. The young Mexicans are taught English and the general course of study is in accordance with Mexican law. Oaxaca, Juarez, and Dublin, in Chihuahua, and Bavispe, in Sonora, are all prosperous Mormon agricultural settlements. It is said that another lot of 500 immigrants will arrive in a few weeks.

“A very notable fact in the history of these Mormon colonies in Mexico is that, though established some twenty years ago, there never has been the slightest trouble between them and the Mexicans. They have lived on terms of cordiality and even intimacy with the Mexicans, and they have the respect of their neighbors and of the authorities, both State and Federal.”

#### RAILROAD NOTES.

The “New York Tribune” calls attention to the fact that the earnings of Mexican railroads are improving at a rate which, if continued, will place the securities of the country on a level with many of the better securities of the United States. As industrial expansion in the Mexican Republic is likely to grow, the outlook for the railroads of that country is most promising.

The “New York Commercial” says the Hidalgo Northern Railway, running from the City of Mexico to Pachuca, has been bought by the Belgian syndicate, which owns and operates the Monterey and Mexican Gulf Railway. The latter road is to be extended to Pachuca, and, with the Hidalgo Northern, will then have a line between Tampico and the City of Mexico, which will make the distance 200 miles shorter than the route now followed.

A message to the “Chicago Record” says the contract has been let for the immediate construction of the Saltillo and Torreón Railroad. This road is to run from Saltillo to Torreón, where connection will be made with the Mexican Central and the Mexican International railroads. The distance is 203 miles. Steel for 40 miles of track has already arrived at Saltillo.

The owners of farms situated in the States of Tlaxcala and Puebla are much interested in the projected construction of the railroad from Apizaco to San Augustin Tlaxco, which they hope will soon be an accomplished fact. A sum of \$113,000 has already been subscribed by the largest capitalists of these regions. Among the promoters figures the general manager of the postal service, Mr. MANUEL ZAMACONA, who subscribed \$10,000. About \$180,000 are necessary for this construction, and there is no doubt but what it will soon be made up. The new line will traverse rich farms, whose products will thus find a quicker and easier outlet.

The Chihuahua and Pacific Railway has completed 200 kilometers of its line, which is about one-third the distance from Chihuahua to Topolobampo Bay, the western terminus of its system. The country traversed by this railroad is exceedingly rich in natural products, especially the precious metals. It also contains large plantations, from which considerable quantities of cereals are harvested, while the pastures of the table-lands and valleys abound in herds of horses, sheep, and cattle.

A concession has been granted the Mexican Coal and Coke Company for the construction of a railroad from the "Mota del Cura" and Carrizo coal mines, in the State of Coahuila, to Barroterán, on the Mexican International Railroad, with the privilege of extending the line from Barroterán to some point on the Mexican Central Railway, probably at San Pedro. Construction must be commenced within six months.

Work has been begun on the Southern Mexican Railroad, which is to be extended from Oaxaca to Ejutla. Mr. MORCON, manager of this line, believes that it will be possible to finish the road by the end of June or beginning of July. This branch line, which is 78 kilometers in length, passes through a rich agricultural and mining zone.

Construction will soon be commenced on the railroad connecting Cordoba with Huatusco. The line will be about 67 kilometers long, and will pass through one of the richest agricultural regions of the State of Veracruz. Three large iron bridges will have to be erected in the construction of this road.

Among recent orders from Mexico placed with the Pennsylvania Steel Company, of Steelton, Pa., was one for \$250,000 worth of bridge material for the Veracruz and Pacific Railroad.

The Government has been requested to grant a concession for the construction of a railroad extending from Nacozari, Sonora, to Naco, a point on the Arizona Railroad.

The Mexican Southern Railroad will extend its line from Oaxaca to Ejutla. The material is on the ground, and the construction of the line is being rapidly pushed forward.

It is estimated that the railroad from Zacatecas to San Juan will be completed in about six months, and that it will be opened for traffic by the end of the year.

The concessioner of the Torres and Prietas Railway has been granted two years longer in which to extend the line a distance of 100 kilometers.

The Mexican Government has just appointed Messrs. AUGUSTIN M. CHAVEZ and ESTANISLAO VELASCO, engineers, as delegates to the International Railroad Congress which is to meet at Paris this year.

**NEW ENTERPRISES.**

A brewery is now being constructed at Mazatlan, on the Gulf of California. The plant will cost about \$300,000, and will be modeled after the Cuahuatemoc brewery at Monterey. A distillery to cost \$50,000 is also to be erected in that city. In addition, Mazatlan is to have a brick manufactory which will cost about \$50,000, a soap factory costing a like amount, and a furniture factory to cost \$40,000. Besides these there are in process of formation the Pacific Navigation Company with a capital of \$600,000, a street railway company with a capital of \$200,000, and a suburban railway company with a capital of \$100,000. The Maritime Transportation Company of Mazatlan was recently organized with a capital of \$125,000. The object of the company is the development of the coast trade of Lower California.

“El Buen Tono,” a tobacco manufactory of Mexico City, has a capital of \$2,500,000, Mexican currency, divided into 25,000 shares of \$100 each. This company makes a specialty of seamless and pasteless cigarettes, using in their manufacture 123 Decoufflé machines, operated by about 300 girls. Electric power is employed, and the factory is a model of neatness and cleanliness. Their yearly statement of December 31, 1899, shows a net profit during the past year of about 15 per cent on the capital invested.

MESSRS. PAYNE & JOUBERT, of New Orleans, have sold to FRANCISCO ARMENDAIZ about \$70,000 worth of modern sugar machinery for his sugar plantation near Monterey. The entire plant, according to contract, must be ready for operation November 15 next.

The Mexican Coast Steamship Company has been organized at San Francisco, Cal. It proposes to establish a new line of steamers, consisting of eight vessels, to ply between San Francisco and Mexican ports.

The Mexican General Electric Company has received the contract for the electric-lighting system of Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. The plant will have a capacity of 250 horsepower.

It is estimated that the packing house, soon to be established at Chihuahua, will have a capacity of 350 to 400 head of beeves daily.

A new bank is to be established at Guanajuato. It will be known as the Bank of Guanajuato, and will have a capital of \$500,000.

A large glycerine factory is being erected at Lerdo. It is expected to be ready for operation in about two months.

A cork factory is to be established in the City of Mexico.

**COMMERCIAL ITEMS.**

During the fiscal year 1896-97 Mexico imported 267,296 tons of coal from the United States, 115,622 tons from England, and 18,841 tons from other countries. In 1897-98 the importations were 291,847 tons

from the United States, 109,898 tons from England, and 31,887 from other countries. In 1898-99 there were imported from the United States 515,777 tons, from England 135,865 tons, and from other countries 19,970 tons.

During the three months ending March 31, 1900, Great Britain exported to Mexico linen piece goods to the value of £9,253. For the first quarter of 1899 such exports were valued at £10,046. The iron and steel exports of Great Britain to Mexico for the first three months of 1900 were valued at £79,673. In the same period in 1899 the exports were only £13,089.

The exports of henequén through the port of Progreso during the year 1899 arose to 445,978 bales, forming a total of 73,190,896 kilograms, of an approximate value of \$20,711,241.37. Not less than 139 vessels were necessary for its transportation to the United States, Cuba, and Europe.

Mexican beans are in considerable demand in Cuba. One thousand one hundred and thirty-five sacks were recently shipped there, and orders have been received for 75,000 pounds more.

#### GENERAL MINING NOTES.

Mr. THOMAS MCGRAW, of New York, is reported to have purchased the Picache de Bacanuchi mine, near Bacanuchi, in the Arixpe district, Sonora, for \$150,000 in gold. Mr. MCGRAW proposes to erect a mill, put in modern improvements, and to thoroughly develop the property.

Among the mineral resources exhibited at the Paris Exposition will be one of onyx from the Mexican mines. This exhibit comes from the Laguana District, and when shipped, a short time since, filled two railroad cars. The mineral was sent in its rough state, and before being exhibited will be polished in Paris.

A new rival to the Cape Nome gold fields is reported to have been discovered in Mexico. The gold placers are situated along the River Conchos about 80 miles from Chihuahua. The richest discoveries have been made at a point called San Domingo, where many miners from Chihuahua, and some even from the United States, have located.

The Silveragoa mines, in Sinaloa, have been bought by a United States company for \$50,000. Modern machinery is to be put in at once. This group of mines has been worked for more than one hundred years, and has produced great wealth in the past.

According to Chicago newspapers, a company has been formed in that city for the exploitation of important copper mines situated in Mexico. The capital of the company is estimated at \$3,000,000 in gold, and already some mines near Monterey have been purchased.



A New York company has sent experts to examine the onyx mines in the States of Puebla and Oaxaca, with the object of operating them on a large scale should conditions warrant it.

The "Engineering and Mining Journal" says that the Esperanza Mining Company is preparing to erect a 40-stamp mill at its mine on Cedros Island.

The Santa Rita mine, in the Sahuaripa district, has been bonded to Mr. A. SHERWOOD, a United States capitalist, for \$25,000.

Platinum has been discovered in some placer mines in Sonora.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The orange growers in the State of Morelos and parts of the State of Jalisco will prune their trees this year in order to kill the orange pest, and will, therefore, temporarily cease making shipments of fruit to the United States. The National Government has sent an expert to this State to study this pest and to devise means for its extermination.

Mr. VICTOR SAUVADE, a Frenchman, has recently made application to the Minister of Fomento for a twenty years' patent on certain improvements which he has made in the system of wireless telegraphy. These improvements have been made in the instruments producing the "Hertzian" waves.

The construction of the new edifice, which will be occupied by the National Geological Institute, and for which a sum of \$100,000 has been appropriated, will soon be commenced. The building is to occupy an extensive space on Ciprés street, City of Mexico.

Mr. MANUEL S. CARMONA, of City of Mexico, has been granted an additional patent by the United States Patent Office on a typewriter.

During the month of March, 1900, over 11,000 head of cattle were exported from Mexico to Cuba by way of Ciudad Juarez.

CLEOFAS GALVAN, of Zacatecas, was granted a United States patent (No. 648,458) on May 1, 1900, for a "concentrator."

Mr. EVERETT E. BAILEY, of Illinois, has been named by President McKinley as United States Consul at Esenada.

## PARAGUAY.

## NEW SECRETARY OF STATE.

In a communication dated Asunción, March 14, 1900, addressed to the Hon. JOHN STEWART, Consul-General for Paraguay at Washington, Señor FABIO QUEIROLO announces that the President of that Republic has appointed the writer Secretary of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

## REPUBLIC DECLARED FREE OF BUBONIC PLAGUE.

The National Council of Hygiene declares that since the 17th of February, 1900, there has been no case whatever of the plague or of any sickness bearing symptoms of that disease or that may be considered suspicious, and that therefore it was necessary to declare that this evil is completely eradicated and that its manifestation in Asunción was simply of a sporadic character, not extending to any other part of the Republic.

Considering that for the above reason the public health is deemed to be normal, the President of the Republic, with the advice of his Ministers, on March 14, decrees:

“ARTICLE 1. It is declared that the bubonic plague is eradicated from the entire national territory.

“ART. 2. That this fact shall be communicated to whomsoever it may concern, be published and officially registered.”

## PERU.

## GENERAL COMMERCE IN 1898.

Mr. BOULARD POUQUEVILLE, French Chargé d’Affaires at Lima, has prepared a detailed report on the industrial development of Peru in 1898 as compared with 1897, according to which an increase in commerce of 15 per cent is shown, while the exports of the products of the mining industries are 50 per cent in excess of those of the preceding year. The manufacturing industries are being steadily developed, thanks to the effective cooperation which is accorded to them by the public, as well as by the Government. In 1898 the export and import trade between Peru and foreign countries reached 49,572,047 *sols*, an increase over 1897 of 5,274,945 *sols*. In this trade, England and the United States show the largest increase, Germany following.

The exports reached the sum of 30,274,770 *sols*, an increase of 2,106,322 *sols* over 1897, or more than 7 per cent. In this trade the United States occupies third place, figuring for 2,873,526 *sols*.

The agricultural progress of Peru is greatly retarded through lack of means of transportation and the difficulty experienced by the *hacendados* (farmers) in obtaining laborers to work on the plantations.

The agricultural products exported at the present time are cane sugar, cotton, rubber, coffee, coca, cacao, tobacco, potatoes, and wine; and indirectly wool, hides, and honey.

The cultivation of cacao is daily becoming more important. The cacao trees of the departments of Lambayeque and Cuzco are especially rich in thorium which explains why they are so sought after by certain foreign chocolate manufacturers, Germans especially, who buy two-thirds of the Peruvian cacao. The exports of this product reached 618,073 kilograms in 1898, representing a commercial value of 348,376 *sols* against 118,796 kilograms in 1897, or an increase of 423 per cent during one year.

While the production of coffee has increased by 5,580 kilograms over 1898, the culture has not given the results which could be expected. The expenses of transportation are very heavy, and until direct communication is established between the Valley of Chanchamayo and the Amazon port of Iquitos, the development of this product will be unimportant. In 1898, 1,245,324 kilograms, representing a value of 541.715 *sols* were exported, Germany being the largest purchaser.

The other principal exports are rubber, coca, cocaine, the Germans almost entirely controlling the trade in these products. The cotton raised in the Province of Piauhy is bought principally by the United States and England, which take about five-sixths of the entire crop. In 1898 the exports of cotton amounted to 6,712,112 kilograms, valued at 2,469,955 *sols*. The exports of wool, consisting chiefly of lamb, vicuna, llama, and more especially alpaca, amounted to 3,485,555 kilograms, representing a value of 3,082,633 *sols*. England gets almost all the supply.

Next in importance is the trade in hides; this includes ox, goat, sheep, alpaca, vicuna, deer, chinchilla, and sea-calf hides. France takes about one half of these goods, buying especially the ox, sheep, and sea-calf hides. The small quantity of chinchilla exported at the port of Mollendo is also sent to France, though these skins more especially belong to Bolivia and some Chilean Provinces. The exports rose to 2,127,220 kilograms, valued at 831,186 *sols*, France being the largest purchaser, with the United States second.

The annual quantity of sugar made in Peru can be estimated at 120,000 kilograms, a seventh of which is consumed in the country. France and Germany, which formerly bought sugar from Peru, did not import a single kilogram in 1898, on the other hand a few shipments were sent to China and even Spain. The value of the sugar exports in 1898 rose to the sum of 9,084,661.54 *sols*.

The exports of tobacco in 1898 were 30,720 kilograms. Chile and Bolivia are the only countries that buy this product.

Quinia, described for the first time by LA CONDAMINE and which figures on the Peruvian coat of arms, is known in the country under the name of *Cascarilla*. The exportation of this valuable bark, which is gathered especially in the Provinces of Puira and Cuzco, is steadily increasing. The gray and yellow *quinquinas* or *Calisaya* are especially in demand. In 1898, 48,099 kilograms, worth 30,460 *sols*, were exported, England and Germany taking the entire amount. The other exports are wax, honey, wines, brandy, potatoes, olives, spices, gum arabic, sarsaparilla, ipecacuanha, and medical plants.

The mining industry is a great source of wealth to the country. Peru is in fact one of the countries of the world whose soil contains the greatest number of ores. In the north petroleum and in Piura sulphur are found; as are also the coal mines of Hualgayoc and the lead of Ancash. In the center the great mining basin of Cerro de Pasco and of the Province of Huarochiri are the famous copper, lead, coal, and rock salt mines, etc.; the phosphates from Ica and the mercury mine of Santa Barbara. In the south are found the Arequipa borax, the gold quartz of Huayllura, of Sandia, Carabaya, and the Inambari placers.

The mines in course of development number 2,500, employing 70,000 workmen. The value of the ores exported, which has increased more than 56 per cent inside of two years, amounted in 1898 to the sum of 9,481,213.44 *sols*.

The manufacturing industries show a steady development. Among them are to be mentioned breweries, brickyards, foundries, furniture factories, tanneries, cotton and woolen factories, also broom, billiard, chocolate, piano, and harness factories, and several sawmills.

The import trade of Peru in 1898 rose to 19,297,272.13 *sols*, or an increase over 1897 of 3,168,622.55 *sols*. In this trade England ranks first, Germany second, and the United States third, France following. The imports from the United States amounted to 2,078,376.42 *sols*.

#### COMMERCE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

During the months of January, February, and March, 1900, the value of the merchandise received by Great Britain from Peru, so far as enumerated in the former country's "Accounts of Trade and Navigation," was £130,168, divided between sugar, £74,557, and alpaca, vicuna, and llama wool, £55,611. The receipts of the same items for the corresponding months in 1899 were: Sugar, £85,142; and wool, £50,920; a total of £136,062. For 1898, the total returned valuation was £227,148—sugar, £192,163; and wool, £34,985.

Merchandise taken by Peru during the first quarter of 1900 included cotton piece goods to the value of £74,048; woolen and worsted tissues, £24,951; iron and steel, £7,600. In 1899 the value of the cotton goods

exported to Peru for the first quarter was £93,276; of woolen and worsted tissues, £27,386; of iron and steel, £7,565; the totals for the first quarters of the years in comparison were, respectively, £106,599 and £128,227.

#### **CARBIDE OF CALCIUM MANUFACTORY.**

A German consular report from Lima says a joint stock company has recently been established in that city for the manufacture and sale of carbide of calcium. As a commencement has been made toward fitting up the mechanical plant, specimens of the output may shortly be expected. The enterprise is practically without a rival, and it is thought that it will prosper. Carbide of calcium has not been imported at Lima on account of the danger believed to attend its transportation. As this substance is destined to play an important part in the lighting industry, the present appears to be a favorable time for the introduction of acetylene apparatus.

#### **OPERATIONS OF THE NEW MONETARY LAW.**

The United States Legation at Lima has forwarded to the Bureau of the American Republics a clipping from "El Comercio" of March 16, 1900, concerning the working of the gold-standard law in that Republic: "The first step toward the establishment of a gold standard for Peru was taken in April, 1897, but not until March 16, 1900, did the gold and silver coins become interchangeable at the legal parity. The Peruvian pound is of the same weight and fineness as the English pound sterling, and the aim has been to give to it and 10 silver sols the same debt-paying power. The coinage ratio of the two metals is that of 31 to 1. The change was made without disarranging business, and Peru is to be congratulated on placing herself on a solid financial basis as perfect as that of the United States and England. The circulation of silver has greatly decreased, and its chief function now in Peru is that of a subsidiary coin or token money."

#### **OPENING OF THE CENTRAL RAILROAD.**

A notable step in the progress of Peru was the opening of the Central Railroad, connecting the coast with the navigable rivers on the east side of the Andes tributary to the Amazon. This will enable the journey from Lima to Europe to be made in much less time than formerly. The advantages to commerce which will be derived from the operating of this railroad and connecting waterways are incalculable. The slopes of the Andes are exceedingly rich in natural products, especially rubber, coffee, cacao, etc. There, also, is found the much-prized alpaca wool, the exportation of which last year amounted to about \$1,000,000.

**GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH LINES.**

The President, in a recent communication to Congress, says that the Government controls 3,618 kilometers of telegraph lines. There are about 70 kilometers of telephone wires in operation by the Government, in addition to which there are numerous telephone lines operated by private companies in the principal towns of the Republic. (For list of private lines see MONTHLY BULLETIN for January, 1900, page 48.)

**MINING NOTES.**

"El Economista," of Lima, in a recent issue, contains an interesting report regarding the mercury deposits and silver mines of Santa Barbara, from which it would appear that the greatest difficulties experienced in working these mines at the present time are due to the bad roads and primitive methods used in the reduction and treatment of the ores.

"El Comercio," of Lima, in a recent issue, says that some French capitalists have submitted a proposition to the Peruvian Government regarding the working of the mines in the Pasco Mountains, which proposition is being favorably considered by the authorities.

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**SALVADOR.****COMPLETION OF AN IMPORTANT RAILWAY.**

According to the report on February 21, 1900, of Mr. JOHN JENKINS, United States Consul at San Salvador, the railroad running from the port of Acajutla, through Sonsonate to Santa Ana, was to have been opened for traffic on May 1. The service on this road will permit trains to leave San Salvador for Acajutla each morning, with a return trip the same day. Heretofore it has been necessary to take the early train to Santa Tecla, go by mule back or coach to La Ceiba and thence by rail to Ateos, where a change of cars was made to reach Acajutla.

With this road completed, freight will have to be handled but once instead of twice, as formerly, and the bad treatment given goods in ox carts will be avoided. Besides this, the cost of transportation will be greatly diminished, and other advantages will be numerous.

**EXHIBITION OF MEXICAN PRODUCTS.**

The Mexican Consul at Sonsonate and Acajutla has recommended the establishment of an exhibit of Mexican products in Salvador. At the present time there is quite a consumption in that Republic of

cigars, cigarettes, tobacco, cotton goods, and shoes of Mexican manufacture. The Mexican Government has decided to make such an exhibit, and has requested manufacturers and producers to submit samples.

#### EXHIBITS FOR PARIS EXPOSITION.

There are now being collected for the Paris Exposition samples of agricultural and mineral products of Salvador, the exhibition of which will make known the resources of the country, and at the same time show the class of articles available for export. These exhibits will be shown in connection with those shown by Mexico.

#### SATISFACTORY STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

The "Diario del Salvador" says that the "Kosmos Steamship Company," plying monthly between the west coast and San Francisco, is bettering its service in a manner highly satisfactory to shippers and to the interest of commerce. During the last coffee season this company rendered important services to planters and exporters of this article in Central America.

#### DISTRICT OF USULUTÁN.

The District of Usulután, due to its favorable topographical situation, is said to be one of the richest in the Republic in natural wealth, and is destined at no distant day to become one of the most important Provinces of the country. The coast abounds in rich forests of ebony and other valuable woods, while the soil in the low lands is especially adapted to the cultivation of cacao and other tropical products, and in the mountains to the raising of coffee and stock.

### SANTO DOMINGO.

#### COMMERCE IN MARCH, 1900.

Señor JOSÉ G. GARCÍA, Honorary Corresponding Member of the International Union of American Republics in Santo Domingo, has furnished the following interesting data concerning the importations and exportations of that Republic during the month of March, 1900:

	Importations.	Exportations.
Villa Sanchez.....	\$15,156.60	\$1,839.25
Santo Domingo.....	45,317.75	7,968.60
Macoris.....	33,400.82	57,053.06
Azuá.....	7,808.66	1,572.95
Total.....	101,683.83	68,433.86

**AUTHORIZED USE OF MEXICAN MONEY.**

The Government of the Santo Domingo Republic has again authorized the circulation of Mexican money on its territory.

This money can now be introduced into Santo Domingo free of all duties and must be accepted in commercial circles as well as by the Public Treasury.

**PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION.**

In the draft of the new Constitution now being debated by the Congress, capital punishment is abolished and the divorcement of the State and Church is prescribed.

**UNITED STATES.****TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.****STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**

The following is the latest statement from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin American countries. The report is for the month of March, 1900, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the nine months ending March, 1900, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1899. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the complete returns for March, for example, are not published until some time in May.

**IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.**

Articles and countries.	March—		Nine months ending March—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Chemicals:</b>				
Logwood ( <i>Palo campeche; Páu campeche; Campeche</i> )—Mexico .....	\$3, 621	\$1, 417	\$18, 560	\$12, 648
Coal, bituminous ( <i>Carbón bituminoso; Carvão bituminoso; Charbon de terre</i> ):				
Mexico .....	22, 392	8, 297	190, 383	105, 908
Cocoa ( <i>Cacao; Coco ou cacao crú; Cacao</i> ):				
Central America.....		3, 812	8, 597	8, 523
Brazil.....	86, 887	68, 367	600, 606	879, 266
Other South America.....	123, 266	125, 651	938, 422	1, 120, 429
Coffee ( <i>Café; Caffé; Cafè</i> )				
Central America.....	1, 311, 216	943, 434	2, 994, 337	2, 709, 415
Mexico .....	546, 405	545, 426	1, 602, 849	2, 201, 266
Brazil.....	3, 504, 898	4, 419, 224	26, 542, 271	28, 274, 436
Other South America.....	785, 712	598, 079	5, 105, 414	3, 200, 190



## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	March—		Nine months ending March—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Cotton, unmanufactured ( <i>Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé</i> ):				
South America.....	\$9, 053	\$79, 922	\$91, 732	\$215, 535
<b>Fibers:</b>				
Sisal grass ( <i>Henequen; Hennequen; Hennequen</i> )—				
Philippine Islands.....	139, 458	1, 075, 012	1, 789, 055	2, 940, 182
Mexico.....	923, 286	1, 109, 339	6, 494, 145	8, 007, 961
<b>Fruits:</b>				
Bananas ( <i>Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes</i> )—				
Central America.....	126, 472	185, 228	1, 217, 990	1, 561, 515
South America.....	56, 096	85, 692	342, 377	732, 179
Oranges ( <i>Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges</i> )—				
Mexico.....	246	286	136, 773	184, 338
Fur skins ( <i>Pieles finas; Pelles; Fourrures</i> ):				
South America.....	10, 579	3, 090	118, 462	113, 191
Hides and skins ( <i>Cueros y pieles; Coutos e pelles; Cuirs et peaux</i> ):				
Central America.....	25, 087	44, 678	204, 768	363, 701
Mexico.....	227, 885	350, 102	1, 417, 741	1, 864, 243
South America.....	719, 923	1, 260, 019	6, 843, 938	8, 572, 245
India rubber, crude ( <i>Goma clástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut</i> ):				
Central America.....	80, 561	69, 309	605, 370	591, 877
Mexico.....	25, 291	30, 664	84, 513	154, 105
Brazil.....	4, 458, 125	2, 707, 238	13, 909, 159	14, 554, 962
Other South America.....	80, 024	68, 263	698, 389	762, 900
Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. ( <i>Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em linguaços, barras, etc.; Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.</i> ):				
Mexico.....	226, 620	223, 160	1, 442, 541	1, 879, 168
Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard ( <i>Azúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão holandês; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16</i> ):				
Central America.....	4, 334	12, 877	60, 123	61, 703
Mexico.....	2, 307	7, 344	14, 166	39, 979
Cuba.....	2, 384, 164	2, 896, 771	7, 118, 611	9, 159, 825
Brazil.....	231, 972	267, 250	563, 372	1, 100, 835
Other South America.....	493, 800	498, 406	4, 670, 762	4, 647, 094
Hawaiian Islands.....	1, 822, 819	1, 950, 311	10, 738, 315	14, 278, 858
Philippine Islands.....		18, 534	969, 323	923, 335
Tobacco, leaf ( <i>Tabaco en rama; Tabaco en folha; Tabac en feuilles</i> ):				
Mexico.....	2, 682	1, 085	212, 146	69, 745
Cuba.....	590, 250	760, 728	3, 128, 907	6, 366, 953
Wood, mahogany ( <i>Caoba; Mogno; Acajon</i> ):				
Central America.....	57, 228	48, 288	314, 117	244, 036
Mexico.....	53, 152	16, 056	274, 516	275, 411
Cuba.....	90	18, 547	7, 603	113, 398
South America.....	5, 000	683	14, 411	22, 872
Wool ( <i>Lana; Lã; Laine</i> )—				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing).....	24, 866	576, 263	81, 138	1, 123, 163
Class 2 (combing).....			106	48, 600
Class 3 (carpet).....	34, 338	34, 887	277, 616	454, 183

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Agricultural implements ( <i>Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machinos agrícolas</i> ):				
Central America.....	\$307	\$225	\$5, 774	\$5, 961
Mexico.....	31, 823	53, 280	141, 647	277, 585
Santo Domingo.....	105	45	333	2, 926
Cuba.....	2, 742	25, 718	13, 847	129, 618
Porto Rico.....	35	273	1, 312	4, 548
Argentine Republic.....	67, 372	54, 615	1, 298, 428	1, 657, 408
Brazil.....	6, 407	1, 259	28, 399	17, 702
Colombia.....	101	38	1, 372	746
Other South America.....	15, 617	12, 847	235, 360	263, 002

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	March—		Nine months ending March—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Animals:</b>				
Cattle ( <i>Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail</i> )—				
Central America .....			\$3,320	\$450
Mexico .....	\$10,307	\$8,818	81,245	112,290
South America .....			2,943	490
Hogs ( <i>Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons</i> )—				
Mexico .....	11,773	936	45,463	61,939
Horses ( <i>Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux</i> )—				
Central America .....		50	5,590	300
Mexico .....	3,000	14,602	62,034	94,588
South America .....			3,839	1,830
Sheep ( <i>Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons</i> )—				
Mexico .....	615	1,236	10,668	14,355
South America .....	905	985	6,820	6,367
Books, maps, engravings, etc. ( <i>Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.</i> )—				
Central America .....	2,495	1,296	26,662	44,387
Mexico .....	6,484	6,877	41,716	88,683
Santo Domingo .....	2,015	606	9,026	1,499
Cuba .....	6,237	8,618	24,086	48,531
Porto Rico .....	1,132	547	10,529	9,878
Argentine Republic .....	2,142	1,474	14,819	23,255
Brazil .....	5,414	750	39,148	46,144
Colombia .....	8,486	991	40,966	43,741
Other South America .....	4,270	3,048	111,047	38,057
<b>Breadstuffs:</b>				
Corn ( <i>Maíz; Milho; Maïs</i> )—				
Central America .....	2,735	3,596	25,428	34,479
Mexico .....	3,471	24,821	24,604	174,266
Santo Domingo .....	47	21	49	72
Cuba .....	19,177	38,704	141,536	384,465
Porto Rico .....		516		2,890
South America .....	951	2,348	17,540	65,304
Wheat ( <i>Trigo; Trigo; Blé</i> )—				
Central America .....		1,715	26,085	6,915
Mexico .....			5,036	2,038
South America .....	9	35,759	141,143	58,371
Wheat flour ( <i>Harina de trigo; Farinha de Trigo; Farine de blé</i> )—				
Central America .....	88,793	89,666	763,592	622,898
Mexico .....	6,342	12,194	93,154	112,622
Santo Domingo .....	40,178	14,350	118,311	92,124
Cuba .....	156,932	185,693	1,271,028	1,602,658
Porto Rico .....	89,598	61,724	369,529	526,939
Brazil .....	196,203	191,669	2,537,244	1,634,038
Colombia .....	58,183	16,761	276,765	210,176
Other South America .....	98,851	118,998	1,022,612	1,154,083
Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of ( <i>Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties</i> ):				
Central America .....	2,309	4,743	32,775	19,776
Mexico .....	65,306	30,753	333,454	797,300
Santo Domingo .....	2,584	174	20,925	17,259
Cuba .....	13,271	7,319	89,787	161,646
Porto Rico .....	383	585	2,464	21,770
Argentine Republic .....	13,194	63,547	440,449	294,863
Brazil .....	37,190	972	98,420	156,517
Colombia .....	1,122	563	21,150	16,560
Other South America .....	3,833	5,826	44,244	42,590
Cycles and parts of ( <i>Bicicletas y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accesorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties</i> ):				
Central America .....	680	94	4,684	2,335
Mexico .....	3,337	764	36,016	19,208
Santo Domingo .....	5	21	226	237
Cuba .....	3,761	9,385	8,101	137,804
Porto Rico .....	70	173	1,951	1,969
Argentine Republic .....	32,279	6,862	149,731	135,940
Brazil .....	2,193	1,942	46,692	23,141
Colombia .....	757	69	5,719	5,950
Other South America .....	3,351	5,884	38,079	54,777

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	March—		Nine months ending March—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Clocks and watches (<i>Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relogios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	\$340	\$746	\$2,021	\$2,608
Mexico .....	2,919	2,447	20,644	21,103
Argentine Republic .....	3,377	1,350	18,139	17,393
Brazil .....	4,929	3,781	54,724	50,936
Other South America .....	5,170	8,301	70,472	56,010
<b>Coal (<i>Carbón; Carvão; Charbon</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	827	1,711	9,624	17,366
Mexico .....	149,971	250,187	887,853	1,193,221
Santo Domingo .....	1,435	1,374	9,585	10,969
Cuba .....	73,429	117,585	486,716	497,950
Porto Rico .....	6,835	8,184	35,387	39,141
Brazil .....	5,252	12,462	130,745	72,787
Colombia .....	100	8,878	30,541	34,735
Other South America .....	16,947	28,195	155,189	82,404
<b>Copper (<i>Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre</i>):</b>				
Mexico .....	43,860	130,539	203,122	426,843
<b>Cotton, unmanufactured (<i>Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton, non manufacturé</i>):</b>				
Mexico .....	133,302	146,384	941,361	567,796
South America .....				6,880
<b>Cotton cloths (<i>Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	51,056	81,111	386,717	556,067
Mexico .....	43,284	31,186	347,796	375,719
Santo Domingo .....	16,270	17,099	113,213	52,894
Cuba .....	59,110	29,134	201,607	380,187
Porto Rico .....	21,105	2,014	42,388	104,917
Argentine Republic .....	11,939	9,375	152,304	92,104
Brazil .....	42,202	33,104	414,233	321,019
Colombia .....	36,275	17,296	274,288	198,220
Other South America .....	100,050	125,023	1,089,299	771,702
<b>Wearing apparel (<i>Ropa de algodón; Roupas de algodão; Vêtements en coton</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	18,989	37,325	156,593	298,368
Mexico .....	40,982	38,786	285,159	318,713
Santo Domingo .....	2,664	4,095	23,743	13,160
Cuba .....	18,516	16,200	60,183	133,162
Porto Rico .....	4,275	667	10,709	22,688
Argentine Republic .....	2,952	1,848	53,864	15,113
Brazil .....	2,907	3,436	33,046	33,605
Colombia .....	3,219	3,241	33,728	36,061
Other South America .....	3,873	5,732	36,364	54,452
<b>Fruits and nuts (<i>Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noix</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	2,569	3,649	21,028	28,498
Mexico .....	6,334	5,055	60,181	63,859
Santo Domingo .....	33	225	1,627	2,336
Cuba .....	4,055	4,210	52,250	72,951
Porto Rico .....	408	917	3,466	11,161
Argentine Republic .....	5,062	976	11,329	4,406
Brazil .....	1,018	717	14,397	17,753
Colombia .....	866	786	5,805	7,553
Other South America .....	1,288	1,590	17,246	16,805
<b>Instruments:</b>				
Electric and scientific apparatus ( <i>Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Aparelhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques</i> )—				
Central America .....	7,842	4,018	70,490	41,076
Mexico .....	26,435	20,184	318,549	325,038
Argentine Republic .....	13,231		153,015	206,381
Brazil .....	8,868	9,992	89,693	139,991
Other South America .....	12,399	40,330	80,742	140,934
<b>Iron and steel, manufactures of:</b>				
Steel rails ( <i>Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier</i> )—				
Central America .....	1,018		33,540	13,157
Mexico .....	47,212	89,750	427,762	455,698
South America .....	2,551	23,205	204,057	177,424

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	March—		Nine months ending March—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Iron and steel, manufactures of—Continued</b>				
Builders' hardware, and saws and tools ( <i>Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils</i> )—				
Central America .....	\$7,619	\$10,203	\$60,550	\$75,075
Mexico .....	33,193	51,901	234,344	367,363
Santo Domingo .....	1,611	1,541	8,902	8,134
Cuba .....	33,366	21,966	159,666	267,190
Porto Rico .....	889	1,619	5,351	21,281
Argentine Republic .....	21,538	20,878	170,735	216,955
Brazil .....	16,218	21,453	156,598	203,723
Colombia .....	10,503	4,502	82,706	74,785
Other South America .....	11,268	23,750	162,415	214,554
<b>Sewing machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accessorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	1,701	2,163	15,570	23,123
Mexico .....	24,667	27,649	161,376	213,376
Santo Domingo .....	555	558	1,894	2,147
Cuba .....	1,050	5,396	4,571	57,881
Porto Rico .....	189	335	1,429	1,801
Argentine Republic .....	7,865	11,470	112,093	122,938
Brazil .....	4,350	11,635	64,091	99,918
Colombia .....	5,481	800	48,981	10,763
Other South America .....	8,330	13,853	96,388	126,167
<b>Typewriting machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir e accessorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	88	393	1,993	2,202
Mexico .....	8,002	6,463	31,460	42,124
Santo Domingo .....	58	85	188	194
Cuba .....	2,482	4,989	12,876	23,133
Porto Rico .....	297	409	3,032	1,968
Argentine Republic .....	3,650	4,512	21,131	31,272
Brazil .....	714	100	4,609	8,147
Colombia .....	703	500	3,197	2,195
Other South America .....	1,944	1,854	15,412	15,687
<b>Leather, other than sole (<i>Cuero, distinto del de suelo; Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	157	3,873	7,666	20,499
Mexico .....	2,564	3,275	7,865	31,330
Santo Domingo .....	149	516	1,886	1,177
Cuba .....	929	3,915	5,441	28,990
Porto Rico .....	1,725	.....	5,112	2,624
Argentine Republic .....	6,114	7,481	27,170	49,448
Brazil .....	6,551	13,243	31,504	72,618
Colombia .....	12	179	1,390	1,789
Other South America .....	1,989	3,981	23,358	32,062
<b>Boots and shoes (<i>Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	8,880	11,670	69,621	107,235
Mexico .....	33,699	37,494	127,835	269,267
Colombia .....	1,734	1,118	23,060	37,182
Other South America .....	3,798	4,576	32,131	30,689
<b>Naval stores:</b>				
Rosin, tar, etc. ( <i>Resina y alquitrán; Resina e alcatrão; Résine et goudron</i> )—				
Central America .....	635	575	11,001	9,803
Mexico .....	366	744	6,312	5,483
Santo Domingo .....	1,054	14	3,001	1,892
Cuba .....	1,905	1,344	6,362	11,855
Porto Rico .....	130	107	947	1,391
Argentine Republic .....	.....	130	70,285	122,124
Brazil .....	28,831	9,368	150,518	115,276
Colombia .....	1,618	1,555	9,503	7,814
Other South America .....	3,296	6,766	61,530	76,563
<b>Turpentine, spirits of (<i>Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	335	598	2,535	5,210
Mexico .....	415	590	3,217	3,163
Santo Domingo .....	29	54	460	347
Cuba .....	4,427	2,852	21,368	36,270
Porto Rico .....	538	456	2,367	2,694
Argentine Republic .....	518	12,727	25,435	111,957
Brazil .....	8,025	5,768	41,382	53,514
Colombia .....	664	162	4,812	3,229
Other South America .....	1,040	6,588	25,323	49,315

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	March—		Nine months ending March—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Oils, mineral, crude (<i>Aceites minerales, erudos; Oleos minerales, erús; Huiles minérales, brutes</i>):</b>				
Mexico.....	\$67,387		\$263,797	\$276,689
Cuba.....	18,191	\$46,763	143,528	265,097
Porto Rico.....				19,519
<b>Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (<i>Aceites minerales, refinados ó manufacturados; Oleos minerales, refinados ou manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	14,180	18,133	97,583	115,870
Mexico.....	10,075	16,154	119,979	144,329
Santo Domingo.....	14,745	4,696	37,940	35,973
Cuba.....	34,794	7,386	107,661	59,536
Porto Rico.....	4,429	867	49,859	23,485
Argentine Republic.....	7,230	148,493	473,496	1,178,047
Brazil.....	182,499	229,165	1,219,662	1,453,772
Colombia.....	12,508	13,303	84,976	99,935
Other South America.....	79,491	234,414	526,034	1,005,434
<b>Oils, vegetable (<i>Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetaes; Huiles végétales</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	141	357	2,893	4,192
Mexico.....	28,391	95,654	331,013	694,894
Santo Domingo.....	3,143	7,444	18,646	27,981
Cuba.....	6,350	2,311	11,670	30,915
Argentine Republic.....	3,172	12,348	19,507	38,600
Brazil.....	27,381	26,028	157,948	155,057
Other South America.....	14,626	16,865	70,242	97,635
<b>Paraffin and paraffin wax (<i>Parafina y cera de parafina; Paraffina e cera de paraffina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	3,217	2,604	21,108	26,787
Mexico.....	14,150	32,027	171,960	271,094
Brazil.....	838	1,455	9,384	14,039
Other South America.....	1,232	14,532	5,087	34,753
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:</b>				
<b>Beef, canned (<i>Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca em latas; Bœuf conservé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	2,134	4,358	15,066	23,757
Mexico.....	1,780	1,775	13,414	16,091
Santo Domingo.....	7	3	50	79
Cuba.....	1,175	346	11,361	4,580
Argentine Republic.....	249	7	1,127	372
Brazil.....	377	1,089	14,017	29,603
Colombia.....	536	653	3,439	7,794
Other South America.....	1,413	1,431	8,523	17,268
<b>Beef, salted or pickled (<i>Carne de vaca salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumuré</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	4,331	2,982	24,156	30,603
Mexico.....	6	61	574	1,798
Santo Domingo.....	102	362	2,344	3,231
Cuba.....	2,762	229	24,336	6,913
Porto Rico.....	252	20	905	1,504
Brazil.....	64	8	2,130	4,090
Colombia.....	2,079	1,992	9,924	15,707
Other South America.....	2,559	23,070	132,944	145,845
<b>Tallow (<i>Sebo; Sebo; Suif</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	6,244	5,741	63,496	57,394
Mexico.....	1,133	1,868	23,451	18,289
Santo Domingo.....	6,931	1,737	12,385	10,831
Cuba.....	356	153	19,092	2,277
Porto Rico.....	44		347	467
Brazil.....	1,060	16,889	32,891	46,427
Colombia.....	1,868	224	8,216	7,846
Other South America.....	1,017	14,321	17,443	55,069
<b>Bacon (<i>Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,570	3,057	13,441	20,433
Mexico.....	1,665	1,795	11,212	17,845
Santo Domingo.....	154	239	1,105	1,620
Cuba.....	114,108	58,046	423,532	617,469
Porto Rico.....	10,099	6,406	52,558	52,069
Brazil.....	18,373	8,746	383,523	106,402
Colombia.....	96	435	1,263	2,091
Other South America.....	1,398	2,662	11,698	7,938

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	March—		Nine months ending March—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—</b>				
Continued.				
<b>Hams (<i>Jamones; Proscutto; Jambons</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	\$2,096	\$2,577	\$16,981	\$23,236
Mexico.....	3,085	3,212	24,834	35,129
Santo Domingo.....	906	1,143	5,374	5,220
Cuba.....	64,495	48,148	391,480	523,362
Porto Rico.....	1,115	1,428	8,277	29,101
Brazil.....	327	455	3,046	3,296
Colombia.....	1,890	2,440	10,393	14,653
Other South America.....	5,645	5,864	62,204	57,912
<b>Pork (<i>Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Porc</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	5,222	9,219	46,749	60,180
Santo Domingo.....	256	796	3,546	5,593
Cuba.....	5,210	58,904	27,499	326,686
Porto Rico.....	25,454	29,482	117,973	173,890
Brazil.....	.....	8	5,840	2,564
Colombia.....	1,577	1,484	6,249	30,092
Other South America.....	13,543	25,810	176,110	144,392
<b>Lard (<i>Manteca; Banha; Saindoux</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	19,645	21,682	113,194	142,876
Mexico.....	14,024	35,937	123,583	357,987
Santo Domingo.....	1,496	3,024	17,410	16,774
Cuba.....	154,083	228,152	1,001,437	1,496,103
Porto Rico.....	26,660	17,570	178,260	191,563
Argentine Republic.....	1,184	1,095	2,605	4,606
Brazil.....	80,429	54,403	918,306	599,314
Colombia.....	9,945	14,003	60,940	108,387
Other South America.....	47,986	64,987	424,279	567,766
<b>Oleo and oleomargarine (<i>Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Oléo et oléomargarine</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	573	1,976	1,902	6,810
Mexico.....	.....	.....	573	982
Colombia.....	672	847	6,895	7,810
Other South America.....	2,074	2,362	14,633	14,468
<b>Butter (<i>Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	3,746	3,994	34,538	40,742
Mexico.....	4,910	3,973	37,441	33,895
Santo Domingo.....	600	3,633	7,255	10,566
Cuba.....	18,243	3,259	82,082	39,597
Porto Rico.....	.....	141	6,642	1,808
Brazil.....	21,893	5,835	127,411	144,657
Colombia.....	2,195	1,664	10,462	11,069
Other South America.....	10,125	5,077	89,274	102,064
<b>Cheese (<i>Queso; Queijo; Fromage</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	2,002	2,296	13,060	18,697
Mexico.....	1,927	2,971	13,626	20,044
Santo Domingo.....	511	1,405	3,325	5,760
Cuba.....	9,640	5,296	62,448	32,674
Porto Rico.....	8,810	3,434	16,933	22,550
Brazil.....	35	21	603	90
Colombia.....	641	957	5,602	6,700
Other South America.....	619	486	10,523	9,235
<b>Seeds (<i>Semillas; Semences; Semence</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	391	887	2,726	2,861
Mexico.....	3,156	3,850	14,773	17,076
Santo Domingo.....	36	70	134	638
Cuba.....	284	240	3,185	3,857
Porto Rico.....	19	43	131	325
Argentine Republic.....	.....	50	2,432	1,840
Brazil.....	80	.....	799	262
Colombia.....	19	154	1,090	802
Other South America.....	213	634	1,484	2,743
<b>Sugar, refined (<i>Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	2,040	2,093	13,566	25,957
Mexico.....	201	378	12,524	17,297
Santo Domingo.....	51	69	1,001	555
Colombia.....	2,253	1,026	11,056	9,045
Other South America.....	141	110	1,659	1,659

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	March—		Nine months ending March—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Tobacco, unmanufactured ( <i>Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé</i> ):				
Central America .....	\$3,879	\$2,539	\$17,685	\$21,436
Mexico .....	9,951	25,416	107,670	140,685
Argentine Republic.....	2,210	7,600	16,665	14,223
Colombia .....	701	963	4,350	8,248
Other South America .....	6,380	12,179	72,113	80,574
Tobacco, manufactures of ( <i>Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué</i> ):				
Central America .....	6,392	3,933	42,554	41,842
Mexico .....	163	333	8,445	4,790
Cuba .....	29,281	27,664	110,439	135,656
Argentine Republic.....	10	1,075	4,171	22,839
Brazil .....			500	352
Colombia .....	440	49	3,800	4,615
Other South America .....	5,969	6,267	61,770	39,408
Wood, unmanufactured ( <i>Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut</i> ):				
Central America .....	119	1,110	22,532	13,947
Mexico .....	11,450	40,130	225,476	172,640
Cuba .....	10,398	5,569	32,521	43,788
Argentine Republic.....		1,412	12,744	15,841
Brazil .....			4,284	
Colombia .....	405	320	20,599	7,201
Other South America .....	11,818	10,948	25,918	73,592
Lumber ( <i>Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construction</i> ):				
Central America .....	8,359	6,330	43,444	38,912
Mexico .....	69,993	129,896	549,785	799,124
Santo Domingo .....	3,987	9,890	21,918	27,158
Cuba .....	141,766	147,164	559,804	754,350
Porto Rico .....	21,005	7,419	38,138	137,940
Argentine Republic.....	46,734	66,741	701,879	940,608
Brazil .....	43,867	17,644	327,754	318,622
Colombia .....	4,280	900	30,654	51,503
Other South America .....	21,015	26,768	343,414	414,902
Furniture ( <i>Muebles; Mobília; Meubles</i> ):				
Central America .....	2,060	3,972	28,154	35,596
Mexico .....	22,156	43,263	167,879	292,113
Santo Domingo .....	1,094	3,351	5,578	7,499
Cuba .....	13,191	30,934	40,780	230,117
Porto Rico .....	4,605	2,808	12,103	25,592
Argentine Republic.....	3,999	5,392	52,258	84,652
Brazil .....	3,157	1,758	23,136	30,309
Colombia .....	2,615	3,384	20,273	15,081
Other South America .....	2,241	6,099	47,214	48,993

## CEREALS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The only cereals grown in the Philippine Archipelago are rice and corn. Of these, rice is by far the more important, being the staple food of the native population. A scarcity of rice always brings hardship and suffering to the people. There are several varieties of this product grown on the islands, differing from each other more or less in flavor, color, and size of kernels. The *mismis* is the best-known variety and the *malagquit* is another species which is of an unusually glutinous nature, the flour of which is much used in making pastry. By planting a quick and a later maturing variety, two crops may be harvested in one year. The ordinary price of rice in the husk is about 60 or 65 cents per bushel, while that of shelled rice ranges from 90 cents to \$1 per bushel.

The annual production of rice in the Philippines averages about 36,000,000 bushels, but this amount is very far below the actual requirements of the population. In order to supply the deficiency it has been customary to obtain the product of other rice-producing countries, the French colony of Cochin China being the principal source of supply. In some years the quantity of rice imported into Manila has exceeded 3,200,000 bushels; worth nearly \$2,000,000.

In several provinces of the Philippines, as, for example, in Cayagan and La Isabella on the Island of Luzon, the inhabitants subsist chiefly on Indian corn, which is the only plant cultivated, except tobacco. As a rule, corn is not consumed so largely in other parts of the Archipelago and scarcely any is imported.

#### AMERICAN WATCH CASES IN SWITZERLAND.

The "Commercial Intelligencer" of London reports the importation of watch cases from the United States into Switzerland, universally known as the "land of watches," in such large quantities that there is a general movement among the Swiss watchmakers to prevent or at least to modify, if possible, their entry. A committee has been formed to improve the present system of watch making so as to keep the preeminence of the Swiss name in foreign as well as home markets, where American competition is being severely felt. Prizes of a considerable value are to be offered to those who are successful in making any improvements which may be of advantage to the export trade. As watch making is an industry in which the Swiss have made a great reputation throughout the world, it is natural that they should be startled by successful competition from the United States.

#### BOUNDARY WITH MEXICO.

The vagaries of the Rio Grande are responsible for the long delay in determining the exact boundary between the United States and Mexico. The time allowed by treaty for the delimitation of the water boundary between the two countries expired on December 20, 1899. On May 5, 1900, Hon. JOHN HAY, Secretary of State, on behalf of the United States, and Señor Don MANUEL DE ASPIROZ, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary on behalf of Mexico, signed a treaty of a single article extending the time limit for one year from December 20, 1899. The work of marking a boundary is progressing rapidly, but, owing to questions encountered relative to sovereignty over lands which have been transferred by the river's waters from one bank to the other, it has not been possible to complete the survey as soon as was expected when the original treaty was drawn. The boundary line beyond the head waters of the Rio Grande was resurveyed by the boundary commission appointed in 1891. This part of



the line is marked with many monuments, consisting of hollow iron posts filled with concrete.

### LEATHER FROM FISH SKINS.

"The United States Fish Commission" has been making a collection of leathers made from the skins of fish and other aquatic animals, especially of those which promise to be of practical utility. Several varieties of fishes have skins that make an excellent leather for some purposes; salmon hide, for example, serves so well in this way that the Eskimos of Alaska make waterproof shirts and boots out of it. They also cut jackets out of codfish skins, which are said to be very serviceable garments. In the United States frog skins are coming into use for the mounting of books where an exceptionally delicate material for fine bindings is required. There are certain tribes of savages who make breastplates out of garfish skins which will turn a knife or a spear. A bullet will pierce this breastplate, but it is said to be impossible to chop through the material with a hatchet at one blow. Together with such a breastplate, these savages wear a helmet of the skin of the poreupine fish which is covered with formidable spines. Fastened upon the head, this helmet serves not only as a protection, but in close encounters is used to butt with.

The Gloucester Isinglass and Glue Company recently manufactured some shoes of the skins of the codfish and cusk. On the lower Yukon, in Alaska, overalls of tanned fish skins are commonly worn by the natives. Whip handles are made of shark skins and instrument cases are commonly covered with the same material, it being known under the name of shagreen. Whale skins are said to make admirable leather for some purposes, while porpoise leather is considered a very superior material for razor strops. Seal leather dyed in a number of different colors is included in the collection of the Fish Commission. This leather is obtained from the hair seal and not from the fur-bearing species, and is used to a considerable extent in the manufacture of pocketbooks. The hair seals are still very plentiful in the North Atlantic Ocean, and as it is not difficult to kill them they afford a very promising source of leather supply. Walrus leather has come into the market recently, but as the animals are being exterminated rapidly it will hardly amount to much commercially. Another kind of leather now seen on sale is that of the sea elephant. Up to within a few years a species of sea elephant was found on the Pacific coast, ranging as far north as Lower California, but the animals have been so nearly exterminated that they are now rarely seen. Another species is to be found in the antarctic seas, chiefly on Kerguelan Island. When full grown, an animal of this species weighs about 2,000 pounds, and measures about 18 feet in length.

The Commission has also acquired specimens made from the hide of the manatee—that huge aquatic beast of Central and South American waters, which weighs a ton, and feeds on water plants. Some of these animals are also found in Floridan waters, and when tamed are gentle, intelligent, and affectionate. Most commonly they are caught by stretching nets across the mouth of the stream where they are feeding, so that they become entangled therein. A skeleton of a manatee is worth \$100 to-day as a museum curiosity. Naturally, leathers made from the pelts of alligators and crocodiles are included in the collection described; so also is the skin of the snake known as the water moccasin, which is utilized in the manufacture of ladies' belts and pocketbooks. It is, however, the fish leathers which are of the greatest interest in the collection, and it is to their availability for industrial uses that the Commission chiefly draws attention.

#### COPPER FROM CHILE.

In an article written for "Mines and Minerals" for April, 1900, entitled "The World's Copper Supply," Mr. H. J. STEVENS replies to a charge made by the European and financial press concerning copper manipulation by United States importers, founded on the fact that large importations of copper from England and Wales were being made coincident with the shipment of the United States product to various European markets. Mr. STEVENS states that the imports of copper brought to New York from Great Britain are all, or practically all, in the shape of Chilean bars. These are supposed to be refined copper, and for all practical uses are good marketable brands. Industrially the Chilean bars are good copper, but metallurgically they are impure, containing a considerable quantity of silver, which the smelters of Swansea can not extract from the baser metal. These bars have been brought to the United States during the past few months by thousands of tons, and have been refined electrolytically in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, where a considerable amount of silver has been obtained. The bars are used as anodes, and by a deft process of electrical operation and deposition every particle of metal is silently but surely taken from the anode through the acidulated water of the electrolytic tanks and the copper redeposited on the cathode, while the silver is precipitated to the bottom and recovered later by reagents.

The United States has been sending such vast quantities of food-stuffs and manufactures to Europe, and especially to Great Britain, for the past two years that home-bound freights have ruled very low, and owners of steamships have been very glad to obtain bulk freight where otherwise ballast must have been loaded in many cases. This has caused cheap freight rates on the Chile bars, and silver has been obtained in such quantities that the venture has been a highly profitable one.

Mr. STEVENS concludes his article with a practical deduction in favor of this branch of United States industry, saying: "The refiners of Swansea have led the world in metallurgy for the past century, and the ability of American metallurgists to take the finished work of the Wales smelters and by further process derive a handsome profit therefrom shows the wonderful strides forward in American industry."

### THE SILK INDUSTRY.

The "Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Silk Association of America" was recently issued in neat book form, and contains much of interest to every country and to each individual connected in any way with the silk industry. The tables given are much more complete than formerly, and show the world's production of raw silk and the relation of the United States industry thereto. The report also includes the addresses delivered at the anniversary banquet of the association, which was noted in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900. In the article referred to, statistics were given regarding the manufacture of silk in the United States; therefore their repetition is unnecessary.

The world's production of silk, as shown by this report, and as the various averages given for periods of five years each will demonstrate, is constantly and rapidly increasing. From 1882 to 1886 the average production was 21,234,429 pounds; from 1887 to 1891 it was 25,077,325 pounds; from 1892 to 1896 it advanced to 29,794,728 pounds; for 1896-97 the production was 30,383,797 pounds; for 1897-98, 31,135,565 pounds was reached; in 1898-99, the number of pounds attained was 31,812,378, and for 1899-1900 the estimated production is 34,457,898 pounds.

The imports of raw silk at all ports of the United States for the last year amounted to 77,414 bales, valued at \$42,399,604, against 57,515 bales, valued at \$27,636,985, for the preceding year.

### SAILING VESSELS FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN TRADE.

On or about May 28, 1900, the sailing schooner *Edith May* will be dispatched to Belize, Truxillo, and intermediate points by Messrs. HARBURGER & STACK of New York City. According to the "Shoe and Leather Reporter" this firm intends to put a line of sailing vessels into the Central American service to run regularly, making trips twelve to fourteen days each way. Freights will thus be considerably cheaper than by steamers. The *Edith May* will depart from New York loaded with leather, shoes, and general merchandise, and for a return cargo expects to load with hides, skins, rubber, and other Central American products.

**IMPORTS OF COFFEE AT SAN FRANCISCO.**

The imports of coffee at San Francisco for the three months ending April 1, 1900, amounted to 10,551,233 pounds, valued at \$1,167,098. For the same period in 1899 the imports were 8,490,737 pounds, valued at \$918,424. The receipts were credited to the following sources: Central America, 9,848,432 pounds; Mexico, 502,733; South America, 101,250; Hawaii, 18,400; East Indies, 45,288; and China, 35,050 pounds. During the same three months of 1900, 961,320 pounds of sugar were received at the port of San Francisco from Central America and 315,000 pounds from Mexico.

**ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF CUBAN TOBACCO.**

MR. CHARLES G. SMITH, a wholesale tobacco dealer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, recently returned from a tour of observation in Cuba. Mr. SMITH estimates that the present year's crop of tobacco on the island will aggregate about 600,000 bales, or twice as much as the product of 1899, and at least \$30,000,000 will be realized from its sale. Much of the product will be taken by the United States importers, but a goodly proportion will be marketed in England and Germany.

**INCORPORATION OF A NEW CUBAN RAILWAY.**

The "New York Commercial" reports that articles of incorporation were filed on April 25, 1900, in the office of Secretary of State of Trenton, New Jersey, for a railway company with a capital of \$8,000,000. The new corporation will commence business with a capital of \$2,500,000. Its object is to operate railways and tramways with steam and other power in the Island of Cuba. The par value of each share is \$50,000. The incorporators and the number of shares held by each are stated as follows: W. C. VAN HORN, W. C. WHITNEY, LEVI P. MORTON, and THOMAS RYAN, eight each; C. G. HAVEN, six; E. H. HARRIMAN and J. J. HILL, four each; W. L. BULL, three; and H. H. L. TERRY, one.

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**URUGUAY.****FOREIGN COMMERCE OF 1899.**

The trade returns of the Republic of Uruguay for 1899 show that the imports amounted to \$25,551,788, an increase of \$767,427 over 1898, and that the exports were valued at \$36,574,164, an increase of \$6,297,248. The increase in the volume of trade was \$7,064,675. The difference in favor of the exports amounted to \$11,022,376.

The imports were classified as follows, as compared with 1898:

	1899.	1898.
Wines, spirits, etc.....	\$2,349,402	\$2,666,358
Foodstuffs.....	4,786,457	4,475,357
Cotton and linen textiles.....	5,042,176	4,736,111
Ready-made clothing.....	1,308,547	1,617,244
Machinery.....	6,875,652	6,282,109
Tobacco.....	224,434	212,390
Live stock.....	2,211,010	2,093,851
Miscellaneous.....	2,754,110	2,700,940
Total.....	25,551,788	24,784,360

The classifications of exports, with the amounts for both years, were as follows:

	1899.	1898.
Pastoral products.....	\$33,539,134	\$26,243,597
Agricultural products.....	2,354,919	3,315,543
Live stock.....	260,006	336,926
Other products.....	319,909	284,749
Ship chandlers' supplies.....	100,196	96,101
Total.....	36,574,164	30,276,916

### THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The annual official statement has recently been published, showing the movement of the public debt of Uruguay up to December 31, 1899. This, briefly, stands as follows:

On December 31, 1898, \$124,425,395; on December 31, 1899, \$127,159,529; increase in 1899, \$2,734,134.

There was no addition made to the foreign debt during the year, the only emission being an internal one of \$4,000,000, namely, the second and third series of the extraordinary loan, which represented the final liquidation of the deficit and obligations left by the previous Government on account of the civil war. The amount of foreign and internal debt redeemed during the year was \$1,265,866.

The total amount of debt issued during the two years and a half of President CUESTAS's Government has been, roundly, \$9,000,000, and this exactly amounts to a settlement of the difficulties bequeathed by his predecessor. On account of his own administration President CUESTAS has had no recourse to the issue of bonds, nor does the necessity seem likely to arise, although fresh debt may be created for purposes of public works.

Under President HERRERA the debt increased from \$81,279,752 to \$103,584,039, a difference of \$22,304,287, which includes, however, the consolidation of the foreign debt, by which a substantial reduction was obtained in the interest. Under President BORDA the increase was from \$103,584,039 to \$120,765,097, or \$17,181,058. Under Presi-

dent CUESTAS the net increase has been (so far) \$6,394,432, all of which should be justly debited to his predecessor.

The annual service of the public debt in 1899 was: For interest, \$4,984,332; for amortizations, \$895,117. to which must be added \$789,144 for railway guaranties and various minor sums for commissions and expenses, making a net total of \$6,664,287.

The following statement compares the movement of the three divisions of the debt:

	1898.	1899.
Internal .....	\$19,986,848	\$23,101,898
Foreign .....	100,325,072	100,161,606
International .....	4,113,475	3,896,025
Total .....	124,425,395	127,159,529

The general growth of the public debt since the start, forty years ago, may be seen from the following table:

1860 .....	\$2,726,880	1885 .....	\$59,774,428
1865 .....	11,642,240	1890 .....	81,279,752
1870 .....	17,818,694	1895 .....	106,606,153
1875 .....	42,357,495	1899 .....	127,159,529
1880 .....	49,607,186		

In the same period the estimated population of the Republic has increased from 230,000 to 864,000, the exports from \$8,800,000 to \$37,000,000, and the total foreign commerce (roughly) from \$17,000,000 to \$61,000,000.

Although these figures appear to be a great sum for a small Republic to owe, it is worth pointing out that the amount is in a great measure nominal, and that at the present market quotations the whole amount could be redeemed for about \$73,500,000.

#### GENERAL OFFICIAL STATISTICS FOR 1899.

The following items are reproduced from the "Boletin Estadistico Mensual," showing the progress of the country during the past year:

The births registered in the Department of Montevideo for 1899 numbered 3,641, an increase of 149 over the preceding year. The marriages also increased, numbering 2,889 in 1899, against 2,548 in 1898, or an increase of 13.50 per cent.

The year 1899 shows an increase in the population of Montevideo of 3,663, while in 1898 there was a decrease of 134 inhabitants. A decided increase is noted in the immigration movement, which reached 13,677 in 1899, against 4,676 in 1898. This indicates a new step on the road of progress for the country.

Building has also increased, 456 constructions being erected in 1899, against 395 in 1898. The same can also be said regarding real-estate transactions, 3,682 sales, representing a value of \$6,763,539, taking place in 1899, against 3,377, of a value of \$5,928,837, in 1898.

The season of the packing houses for 1899 showed that 760,862 head of cattle were slaughtered, against 673,900 killed in 1898, an increase of 89,962 head, the figures for the month of December alone being 54,300.

At the stock exchange 116,004,369 nominal sales, representing a value of \$52,507,700, were registered for 1899, while the preceding year they numbered 92,585,150, valued at \$39,439,370.

The population of Uruguay up to January 1, 1900, is given at 860,000. In the Department of Montevideo there are 250,000 people.

The houses constructed and inhabited in the city of Montevideo numbered 24,556; those unoccupied or under construction numbered 596; a total of 25,152 on December 31, 1899.

There were introduced in the markets for the sustenance of Montevideo, exclusive of what was destined for exportation, 1,738,830 kilos of vegetables, 180,640 kilos of fruit, 1,650,890 kilos of eggs, 4,560 kilos of butter, and 73,877 kilos of cheese, 51,176 fowls, and 1,305,400 kilos of vegetables.

#### PROGRESS OF THE WESTERN RAILWAY.

A recent issue of the "Siglo" has an article regarding the progress of the western railway now under the control of the Central Uruguayan Railway Company. At that time there were 180 kilometers of line already constructed, with some 90 kilometers remaining to be built. Work was being pushed forward rapidly, so that before the end of the year 1900 it was hoped to have the extension to Colonia, including terminal facilities, fully completed. The arrival of three steamers, one from England, with 70 kilometers of steel rails, and two from Australia, with 150,000 hardwood sleepers, was then daily expected. The construction staff was busy ballasting and strengthening the road on the Rosario to San José branch. From this report it would seem that there was no doubt that the whole line will be completed and open to public service before the expiration of the extended term of the concession.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

In the Borbollón Mountains, near Mendoza, there has been discovered an excellent clay for the manufacture of tiles and paving brick. The exploiting of this industry will be in charge of the municipality of Guaimallen.

A French company has proposed to submit an estimate to the Government for the construction of a railroad from Nico Pérez to Melo.

A French syndicate proposes to establish a large factory in Asunción for the treatment and export of ironwood (quebracho) to Europe.

## VENEZUELA.

## THE NEW PATENT LAW.

The recent Venezuelan patent law, which went into effect on the 19th of March, 1900, repeals the law of June 2, 1882, the amendment of May 17, 1890, and all other decisions and rulings with respect to the earlier law.

The law provides that the inventor or discoverer of any new and useful art, machine, manufacture, or composition can obtain a patent by complying with the conditions of the patent law. The application for a patent must contain a description of the invention or discovery, machine, manufacture, composition, or improvement under consideration, indicating specifically its nature and object. Drawings, samples, and any necessary documents or proofs must accompany the application.

The solicitor of a patent must make oath that he is the original inventor or discoverer, and any question in law in regard to this point shall be settled by the courts of the Republic.

Patents will be issued for a period of five, ten, or fifteen years, and are subject to an annual payment of 250 *bolivars* when covering an invention or discovery, and 200 *bolivars* when concerning an improvement. A receipt, showing payment into the National Treasury of an amount corresponding to one-half the number of years for which patent is requested, must accompany the application. If the patent should be refused because of the applicant's noncompliance with the terms of the law, the amount paid on account of same shall be forfeited to the public school fund.

The holder of a patent in a foreign country, covering an invention or a discovery, can obtain a patent in Venezuela, provided it has not already been patented by some other person. In this case the patent will be issued only for a period equal to the unexpired time of the patent obtained in the foreign country.

Application for patents must be published in the official newspaper for thirty days before being granted. Inventions or improvements injurious to the public health, safety, or morals can not be patented. Pharmaceutical preparations and remedies, of whatever form and kind, are also not patentable, but are governed by special laws covering that subject.

The foregoing is a brief synopsis of the principal clauses of the new law.



## COMMERCE OF LA GUAIRA.

"El Avisador," of Maracaibo, states that the importations through the port of La Guaira during 1898 amounted to 45,933,818 kilograms of merchandise, and that the exportations consisted of 15,104,657 kilograms of coffee, cacao, hides, and other articles. The coasting trade importation for the same year amounted to 17,498,510 kilograms, and the exportations to 5,133,499 kilograms. The importations were made in 198 steamships and 19 sailing vessels, and the exportations in 154 steamships.

A recapitulation of the exports from the port of La Guaira during the year 1899, compared with 1898, shows the following:

	1898.	1899.
Sacks of coffee.....	245,658	148,731
Sacks of cacao.....	98,224	96,516
Cow hides.....	96,853	85,073
Deer hides.....	609	646
Sacks of cevadilla ( <i>Veratrum sabbadilla</i> ).....	1,659	1,422
Bundles, miscellaneous shipments.....	2,932	3,458

These articles were destined to various ports of Europe and the United States.

## GERMAN CAPITAL IN AMERICA.

The "Kolonial Zeitung" in its issue of April 12, 1900, publishes a statement prepared by the Imperial German Ministry of Marine showing the amount of German capital invested in transmarine countries. The statistics in regard to America are stated in millions of *marks*, as follows:

## COUNTRIES ON THE GULF OF MEXICO AND CARIBBEAN SEA.

(1,000-1,250 million marks.)

	Commerce and banking.		Industries.	Real estate and plantations.	Total including all other interests.
	Capital.	Credit.			
Mexico.....	70	20+?	28	28	a Over 200
Central America:					
Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica.	35	60- 70	45-50	100	240
Salvador and Honduras.....					13
West Indies:					
Cuba.....	30	Very high.	10	About 20	About 150
Haiti and Santo Domingo.....	50		(?)	(?)	50+?
St. Thomas, Porto Rico, and Surinam.....					(?)
Northern coast of South America:					
Colombia.....	20	60	12	2- 3	100
Venezuela.....	50- 60	50- 60	67	10- 12	About 200

a According to other estimates 400-450.

## BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

## SOUTH AMERICA (EXCEPTING NORTHERN COAST).

(1,500-1,700 million marks.)

	Commerce and banking.		Indus-tries.	Real estate and plantations.	Total, including all other interests.
	Capital.	Credit.			
Peru.....	25	50	} 5, 5	{6+?} about 25	100- 120
Ecuador.....	3	6			
Chile.....	114	80- 90			
Bolivia.....			20-30	45	270- 300
					(?)
West coast.....	142	136-150	25-35	70	370- 420
Argentine Republic.....	200	160+?	6- 7	200+?	570- 600
Uruguay {	42	50	1- 2	13	About 110
Paraguay }					
Brazil.....	180	50- 60	40+?	30	(b) About 350
Guiana.....					(?)
East coast.....	422	260-270	48-50	245-250	1,060-1,300

b According to other estimates, 600.

## NORTH AMERICA.

(2,000 million marks.)

United States.....	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	2,000
Canada.....	5	5- 6	3	2- 3	25

Taking the highest estimate given above it will be seen that the total amount of German capital invested on the American continent is 1,975 millions of *marks* or a little more than \$1,184,000,000 United States currency.

In the above table the interrogation point indicates that the exact valuation is not obtainable, but is approximately given. The dotted lines are used in connection with countries for which no statistics are given.

## HONORARY CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

Since the MONTHLY BULLETIN for April was issued there has been added to the list of Honorary Corresponding Members of the Bureau of the American Republics the name of Señor Don MIGUEL JOSÉ ROMERO, of Venezuela. Señor ROMERO was born in Barcelona, Venezuela, and is the son of the historian and writer of the same name, who has been a moving factor in the industrial development of his country. Señor ROMERO is a Bachelor of Philosophy and a linguist, and has had an active literary and business career. He has been engaged in the publication of periodicals dealing with political, agricultural, and commercial affairs; has been the organizer of several societies and clubs and is a member, and one of the original founders, of the Caracas Agricultural Club, an important association of Vene-

zuelan agriculturists. Señor ROMERO completed a course in agronomy at the Central University of Venezuela and was then (1895) sent by the Government of the Republic to the United States for the purpose of studying agriculture and cattle breeding and the systems of teaching agricultural science. He was a delegate from the Venezuelan Government to the Atlanta Industrial Exposition and to the Farmers' International Congress of Fort Worth, Texas (1898), and also represented the Venezuelan press at the Exposition at Nashville. His writings upon agriculture, commerce, and education in the United States have been widely published in North, Central, and South America.

Señor Don JOSÉ G. GARCÍA, who will represent the Republic of Santo Domingo as Honorary Corresponding Member of the International Union of American Republics, is one of Santo Domingo's most distinguished men, and doubtless well known to many of the readers of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Señor GARCÍA received a military education, and for seven years was employed by the nation in that important branch of the public service. In 1860 he became connected with the custom-house at Santo Domingo, and from 1863 to 1865 was prominently identified with the government of the city of Santo Domingo. He has been successively Minister of Justice, Minister of Public Instruction, and Minister of Foreign Relations. During the period intervening between 1867 and 1876 he filled, temporarily, all the different Cabinet positions, including that of Minister of War. He represented the Province of Santo Domingo in the National Convention of 1866, and was its presiding officer. He was elected a Member of Congress in 1874. He negotiated and signed the treaty between the United States and the Republic of Santo Domingo, which treaty is still in force. In 1874 he was sent to Haiti as the diplomatic agent of the Santo Domingan Republic. In 1860 he was chosen Secretary of the Commission appointed to recover and uphold the rights of the Republic in the island of Alta Vela, which had been occupied by an American company. In 1874 he presided over the Commission charged with the carrying out of the decree rescinding the agreement with an American company involving the renting of the peninsula and bay of Samaná made by the BAEZ Government.

Señor GARCÍA is a writer of great attainments and merit, and has contributed numerous articles to all the principal newspapers and periodicals of the Republic. He is also an author of wide reputation, and has written various historical and literary works. Three editions of his "History of Santo Domingo" have been published. His other principal works are: "Biographical Sketches of Celebrated Santo Domingans;" first volume of "Las Memorias para la Historia de Luisqueya;" "Collection of International Treaties made by the Repub-

lic of Santo Domingo;" two pamphlets on the "Santo Domingo-Haitian War;" and "Coincidencias y Nuevas Coincidencias."

He is corresponding member of the National Academy of History of Venezuela, honorary member of the "Sociedad de Amigos del País," member of the "Junta Nacional Colombina," and honorary member of all the principal literary societies of the Republic. This Bureau will be furnished from time to time with contributions from his pen.

## MONETARY REFORM IN COSTA RICA.

The following is an extract of an important communication received from Mr. MANUEL ARAGON, Honorary Corresponding Member of the International Union of American Republics, in San José, Costa Rica, written under date of April 20, 1900:

"The BULLETIN, in its issue of March, 1898, contained an article regarding the proposed monetary reform in the Republic of Costa Rica. This reform is based upon the substitution of the old monetary unit of 25 grains of silver, 0.750 fine, for the new gold standard of 778 *milesimos*, 0.900 fine. The old standard was the *peso*; the new is known as the *colon*, which is divided into 100 parts called, *centimes* or cents. The law regarding this change was passed on the 24th of October, 1896, and was published in the November BULLETIN of that year, and afterwards in a separate edition.

"The circulating medium of Costa Rica, at the time of the passage of the law changing the monetary unit, consisted of coin and paper currency. The Government had to take into account the position of the Bank of Costa Rica, which, according to their contract of 1884, is the only authorized bank of issue in the Republic, in procuring the gradual amortization of the paper money in circulation, so that when the gold standard became effective and displaced silver money the interests of the bank and those of the public might in no way suffer. This point was covered by the contract made between the Government and the bank on the 25th of September, 1896, which became a law on the 5th of November, 1896.

"Estimating silver bullion, 0.999 fine, at 60½ cents United States gold per ounce, it is found that the old silver *peso* of Costa Rica, which contains only 18¾ grams of pure silver, is equivalent to a little less than 36½ cents American gold, while the gold *colon* (the new monetary unit), which contains 700 milligrams of fine gold, has a value of 46½ cents American gold, which is the value given the *colon* by the United States Mint.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>In this connection see text of the law published on page 1472 of the MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1898, as follows:

"The monetary law enacted pursuant to this plan establishes the gold *colon* as the monetary unit and fixes the relation of value between it and the present national

"The difference of 10 cents gold resulting from a comparison of the intrinsic value of the gold and silver moneys would be sufficient to interfere with the free circulation of both currencies at the same time, at par, were it not for the fact that the new system gives to silver a fixed place as regards its future circulation. With this object in view it was decided not to issue gold coins of a lesser value than 5 *colones*. Silver, then, being the only money representing a smaller value than \$5, it seems clear that the function of the white metal remains assured, not only as regards its circulation where gold or bank bills can not be used, but also as a fractionary coin.

"The quantity of silver money in circulation, together with that which the Bank of Costa Rica has as a part of its silver reserve, and which is held as a guaranty for the circulation of its bank notes, amounts, approximately, to \$1,600,000. This amount distributed among 320,000 inhabitants, the estimated population of the Republic at the present time, gives \$5 per inhabitant, a proportion of silver which does not seem exaggerated, considering the conditions of limitation which have been indicated in regard to the value of gold and paper money, that is to say, that they shall not fall below \$5.

"The coined silver which the bank had in reserve on the 31st of last December amounted to \$1,000,000, the greater part of which will have to be disposed of as soon as silver shall not be a legal tender in sums greater than \$10. This will be on and after the 15th of July, 1900; so that after that date silver coin can not be used in the exchange of bank bills in greater amounts than that sum. This fact will probably cause the bank to retire from circulation its \$1 and \$2 notes and substitute silver in their stead.

"The amount of gold on hand with which to initiate the gold standard consists of two and a half million *colones* already received, and a million more which will be received in a few days. This makes three and one-half millions furnished by the Government. To this sum must be added a half million which the Bank of Costa Rica has coined for its own account, making a total of four millions.

"It has been estimated that the two and one-half million *colones* coined, as per contract with the bank, will be sufficient to inaugurate the new monetary system. Within a short time the law fixing the value of the principal foreign coins will be published. According to a comparison of their intrinsic values, foreign coins in Costa Rica will be valued as follows:

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silver dollar, estimated with relation to the state of the public treasury, based upon the amount of the circulating medium to the average rate of international exchange for several years, and to the latest average of the value of silver with relation to gold in the same period. In this way (the parity of value between the bank note and the gold certificate being also established by the same fact) all possible disturbances in existing obligations and interests of any kind, and in the present value of all articles, have been avoided."

“One Costa Rican gold *colon* equals  $46\frac{1}{2}$  cents United States gold, or  $22\frac{1}{4}$  English *pence*, or 2.41 French *francs* (gold), or 2.29 Austro-Hungarian *crowns* (gold), or 1.274 Chilean dollars (gold), or 2.41 Spanish *pesetas* (gold).

“The coins of the other countries of the Latin Union will be governed by the French gold equivalents.

“The German *mark* (gold) will equal 0.512 of a *colon*, or 1.953 *marks* (gold) equals 1 *colon*.

“By some it is thought that the gold coins of the new system will be exported by business houses in order to form commercial credits in foreign countries. This may happen in isolated cases, but never on a large scale, because this same money will be needed in commerce for the payment of duties on importations of merchandise.

“Should there ever happen to be an insufficiency of gold coin for the payment of importation duties, these would have to be liquidated with foreign letters of credit acceptable to the Government, which in that case would collect from the merchants not only the duties but an additional charge to cover the mintage of the gold bullion, freight, and insurance occasioned by the replacement of the exported coin.

“As the law establishing the gold standard—effective on and after the 15th of July—has just been published, the press has not yet commented upon it.

“As soon as the coinage of the *colonos* began, and while it was going on, the Government issued certificates or bank notes payable to bearer, to an amount equal to the value of the gold deposited for coinage. The redemption of these certificates is referred to in article 1 of the law of the 17th of April.

“It is needless to say that as soon as this reform was inaugurated it was looked upon with great interest, and now, as the time approaches for putting it to the test, it is the fervent desire of the nation that the change may be productive of the most salutary and lasting benefits.”

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## TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA.

According to a recent report sent in by the German commercial attaché at Buenos Ayres to his Government, there seems to exist in the Argentine Republic a good opportunity for the sale of iron wire, corrugated iron sheets, and wind turbines for use on the numerous cattle ranges of the country.

A German official report says that flat brass reservoirs and spirit lamps are taking the places of old charcoal braziers in Chile. These spirit lamps or stoves have heretofore been supplied exclusively by European houses. The demand is said to be large. There is also a

demand for metallic bedsteads. Those in use so far have come from Great Britain.

The Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railroad Company, Limited, has submitted plans to the Argentine Government for the construction of a drawbridge across the Tigre River. If the plans are accepted, bids on the material for the bridge will be required. It is said that a chance for competition will be given to the United States builders against British competitors.

Private information from Callao, Peru, is to the effect that bids are being asked by the Peruvian Government up to July 23, 1900, for the reconstruction of the Ilo and Moquegua Railroad. According to the British "Board of Trade Journal," particulars have been sent to European commercial centers, but, as far as known, none have reached the United States.

The "Journal of Commerce" reports that Mr. RUDOLPH HERING, No. 100 William street, Chief Engineer for Public Works at Honolulu, Hawaii, is inviting bids for a quantity of brass and iron fittings needed in Government work in that city. Particulars will be furnished to manufacturers by Mr. HERING.

Thousand of acres of fertile lands in Haiti remain uncultivated, and yet sugar, tobacco, and oranges of the finest quality can be produced there with little trouble. The United States Consul at Cape Haitien says that a fine opportunity for the investment of capital exists there. The only railroad on the island, a short line, is now under construction, the Government having allowed the formation of a stock company in which foreigners can obtain a controlling interest.

The attention of exporters is called by Consul CANADA, at Veracruz, Mexico, to the scarcity of corn in that district. Lack of rain, he says, has interfered with the corn crop, and as the consumption of that cereal is large—the majority of the inhabitants using it very extensively—it will have to be brought from abroad or from distant parts of the Republic.

Reports received from Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, say that more than \$350,000 is soon to be spent in additional trackage and other improvements on the Western Railway of that city. Mr. DAVID SIMPSON, of Buenos Ayres, is the general manager and Messrs. LEVEZLY, SON & HENDERSON, of Broad Street, London, E. C., are the consulting engineers.

It is reported that Mr. A. W. COOK, the Government engineer in charge at Havana, Cuba, will shortly ask for bids and will send out specifications for a high-service steam pumping engine of 1,500,000 gallons capacity, needed in that city. The contractor who secures the order will be obliged to furnish the necessary pump house and also a number of new mains.

According to a German consular report, there is a demand for gel-

atine in Uruguay. This is used for thickening the broth in tinned ox tongues. Germany has heretofore supplied the greater part of this commodity, putting the gelatine up in one-half ounce tablets, that quantity being sufficient for one tin.

Mr. K. K. KENNEDAY, United States Consul at Para, Brazil, under date of February 16, 1900, writes that "there is no slack in the demand for United States products throughout my consular district. This is conspicuously true of flour and canned goods. Sawmills, sugar mills, machinery and machinery tools, electrical appliances, oils, paints, and a large variety of drugs are rapidly gaining favor. United States shoes are also winning popularity."

United States Consul GOLDSCHMIDT writing from La Guayra, Venezuela, under date of February 13, 1900, says that the present is the proper time to introduce United States goods into that country. Europeans give less extended credits just now and thus are losing one of their advantages over the exporters of the United States. He is of the impression that it is a propitious time for the establishment of a United States firm or firms for the sale of dry goods both wholesale and retail.

Writing from Managua, Nicaragua, under date of March 6, 1900, United States Consul DONALDSON transmits a letter from Consular Agent MANNING of Matagalpa regarding the incorporation of a traction transportation company. In this it is said the stock has all been subscribed and the organization of the company perfected by the election of Mr. WILLIAM H. DE SAVIGNY, president and Mr. NICHOLAS A. DE LANEY, secretary. It is intended to place improved traction wagons or traction trains on the road as soon as there can be found a company willing to demonstrate the ability of its wagons or trains to travel over the roads and do the work required. The Consular Agent asks that the attention of United States manufacturers be called to this enterprise.

Bids will be received up to August 1, 1900, by the Executive Department of the municipality of Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic for the public lighting of that city. Some 5,000 arc lamps will be required at first, and this number will be increased gradually until there is one arc lamp for every half block of city streets, which will necessitate the use of 10,000 lamps. Señor I. MARENGO is the Director of the city illumination and Mr. ADOLFO I. BULLRICH, from whom details of the conditions, etc., may be obtained, is the Mayor of the city.

Writing from Managua, under date of March 15, the United States Consul says the Nicaraguan Government is anxious to extend the railroad system to the Atlantic seacoast by way of Rama and Bluefields. As yet, no advertisements have been authorized for bids, but an effort is being made to arrange for the immediate construction of a line either to connect Rama with the railroad now in operation between Managua and Granada or with Lake Nicaragua at San Ubaldo. The



distance is about 150 miles in the former and about 105 miles in the latter case. The Consul says the Nicaraguan Government will give as a guarantee for this work, a certain percentage of the import duties collected at Bluefields. The estimated cost is about \$2,000,000.

The Brazilian Government has invited European and American manufacturers of smokeless powder to submit tenders for the construction and installation of a smokeless-powder plant in Brazil. Proposals must be accompanied by samples of smokeless powder and must be sent or delivered to the War Department at Rio de Janeiro within six months from March 3, 1900.

The São Paulo Gas Company, Limited, a British corporation in São Paulo, Brazil, which also operates an electric illuminating plant in that city, is to spend \$10,000 in repairs and additions to machinery.

It is reported that the Coahuila and Zacatecas Railway of Saltillo, Mexico, is to spend \$500,000 in building machine shops with modern equipments and otherwise make extensive improvements on its property.

Correspondence with reference to watches, clocks, jewelry, bric-a-brac, etc., should be opened with and illustrated catalogues and price lists in Spanish sent to the following selected list of manufacturers and importers of jewelry in the City of Mexico:

HUGO BITTROLFF, Portal Mercedes, 5; JOSÉ DE BROE, Espíritu Santo, 1; CARLOS DEEG, Cinco de Mayo y Alcaiceria; DIENER HERMANOS, la Plateros, 12-14; HAUSER, ZIRY Y Cía., 2ª Plateros y Espíritu Santos; LA PERLA, la Plateros, 12-14; MARTIN SCHAFER, la Plateros; SCHREIBER Y Cía., la Plateros, 4; E. SOMMER, la Plateros, 11; TRONCOSO, CILVETI Y Cía., Calle de Refugio, 7.

The following firms, all of Mexico City, are either importers of steel rails or are connected with railways which are large buyers of rails, railroad materials, etc., and it would be advisable for American manufacturers of such to correspond with them: J. ARCE & Co., la de San Francisco, 1; ROBERTO BOKER Y Cía., Puente del Espíritu Santo, 4; SEBASTIAN CAMACHA, S. Fernando, 38; THOS. DETWEILER, 2ª Laragaza, 1; WARREN GARRETT, San Juan de Letran, 4; J. H. HAMPSON, Calle del Eucino, 505; CARLOS LINDER (Suc. LUIS ANCIAUX Y Cía.), Tarasquillo; RUDOLPH PEYTON Y Cía.; SOMMER, HERMANN Y Cía., Ocampo, 1. It is advisable to remember that the importation of rail into Mexico is duty free.

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## TRADE WITH SPANISH AMERICA.

The Mexican Consul at San Francisco reports that during the month of March, 1900, the exports to Mexico were valued at \$3,263.66. The imports for the same month amounted to \$395,460. The principal importations, together with their values, were as follows:

Argentiferous ore, \$45,582; gold bullion, \$34,683; gold coin, \$6,356; silver bullion, \$237,311; Mexican dollars, \$9,602; coffee, \$20,099; hides, \$23,709; limes, \$1,161; lead bullion, \$2,234; sugar, \$6,728; sundry articles, \$7,995; total, \$395,460.

The Consul-General of Venezuela at New York reports that during the month of March, 1900, there were exported from that port to Venezuela 50,248 packages, valued at \$408,072.37, as against 44,866 packages, valued at \$263,222.14, exported in March, 1899.

The Mexican Consul at San Diego, California, announces the exports to Mexico, through his consulate, during the month of March, 1900, to have been 12,582 packages, valued at \$12,401.36. The imports through that port into the United States for the same month were valued at \$20,206.

The Acting Consul of Bolivia, at New York, writes that during the month of April, 1900, there were exported to Bolivia 236 packages of merchandise, valued at \$8,541.68.

The Consul-General of the Republic of Haiti, at New York, reports that during the months of January, February, and March of the present year, the exports to Haiti amounted to \$866,768.13. The imports from Haiti during the same period aggregated \$317,294.

The Consul-General of Mexico at New York reports the imports from Mexico during the month of March last as follows: Henequén, 27,922 bales; coffee, 28,956 sacks; hides, 3,744 bundles; hides, loose, 9,751; ixtle fiber, 1,206 packages; goatskins, 1,660 bundles; deerskins, 432 bundles; rubber, 336 bales; tobacco, leaf, 502 bales; cigars, 142 boxes; broom root, 1,340 bales; chicle gum, 2,036 bales; fustic, 28,179 pieces; tecali marble, 144 pieces; hair, 71 bales; lead bullion, 67,216 bars; metal boxes, 213; ore, 53,836 sacks; sarsaparilla, 104 bales; vanilla, 8 boxes; alligator skins, 160; heron plumes, 2 boxes; bones, 2,311 packages; honey, 101 barrels; cedar, 5,023 logs; mahogany, 1,916 logs; jalap, 256 sacks; copper, 6,853 bars; garlic, 804 packages; cedar slabs, 1,328 pieces.

During the same month 14 steamships, carrying 129,490 packages, were cleared, and 17 steamships, bringing 246,553 packages, were entered.

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## INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS CONGRESS.

Among the assemblages which are to gather this summer at Paris during the progress of the Exposition is an International Congress of Customs Regulations. The sessions of this body will be held from July 30 to August 4.

The object of this Congress is the study of the means of solving the many complex questions arising from the application of the customs laws and regulations of the different countries and colonies. The plans

formulated are eventually to be submitted for approval to a Diplomatic Conference. The membership fee is 20 *francs* (\$4). All persons desiring to take part in this congress can write for particulars to Mr. MAURICE SCHLOSS, General Secretary of the Congress of Customs Regulations, Rue de Prony, 59, Paris, France.

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## INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITIONS.

The "Bulletin Commercial," of Brussels, announces that an International Exposition of Acetylene is to be held shortly in Paris, under the presidency of Mr. BERTHELOT, in the Dome of the Invalides. All requests for information should be addressed to Mr. DAIX, 72 Rue Louis-Blanc, at Paris.

An exposition of automobiles, organized by the Austrian Automobile Club, will take place at Vienna from May 31 to June 10, 1900, inclusive. The exposition will award several prizes, and the carriages coming from abroad will be exempt from customs duties. All communications should be addressed to the Executive Committee of the Automobile Exposition, L. Kärnthnerring, 10, Vienna, Austria.

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## BOOK NOTICES.

Books and pamphlets sent to the Bureau of the American Republics, and containing subject-matter bearing upon the countries of the International Union of American Republics, will be treated under this caption in the Monthly Bulletin.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to the courtesy of Mr. DANIEL MAYER, United States Consul at Buenos Ayres, for a copy of "Gli Italiani Nella Repubblica Argentina" (The Italians in the Argentine Republic), a valuable work of 587 pages, profusely and handsomely illustrated, edited by a committee composed of members of the Italian Chamber of Commerce and Art of Buenos Ayres, 1898. At the first glance, the neatness of the presswork and binding, done by the Compañía Sud Americana de Billetes de Banco (South American Bank Note Company), commands admiration, and compares most favorably with the best examples of the printer's and binder's art, while an examination of the contents discloses the value of the work as a book of reference. Its publication is the result of a desire on the part of the Italian colony in the Argentine Republic to present at the Exposition at Turin a comprehensive history of its development in a far-off land. The book is divided into two sections, one being of a general character and the other of a descriptive nature. The former contains a history of the Italian immigration

movement in the Argentine Republic and the development of the colony in all branches of industry and art; also a geographical sketch of the country, its natural resources, and the development thereof; an outline of existent commercial relations; the establishment of Italian schools and other institutions; a comparative study of Argentine and Italian legislation, and other information of a most valuable character for the student of sociology. The second section is an extensive review of all the industrial establishments founded by Italians in the Republic, their relative importance, products, etc., followed by an interesting sketch of all the associations, benevolent or otherwise, found in the country.

“Diplomatic Relations of the United States and Spanish America,” by JOHN H. LATANÉ, Ph. D., Professor of History in Randolph-Macon Woman’s College. The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Maryland, 1900. This book is based upon a course of lectures delivered by the author in January, 1899, at the Johns Hopkins University. It is made up of six chapters. First, “The Spanish-American Revolt;” second, “Part Played by the United States and England in Founding the Spanish-American Republics;” third, “The Diplomacy of the United States in Regard to Cuba;” fourth, “The Proposed Central American Canal;” fifth, “French Intervention in Mexico,” and sixth, “The Present Status of the Monroe Doctrine.” The book will prove of undoubted assistance to all who are interested in the great questions of American foreign policy. In the preface the author makes acknowledgment to Dr. ALBERT SHAW, editor of the “American Monthly Review of Reviews,” and the founder of the course under which the lectures were delivered; to Prof. HERBERT B. ADAMS, of the Johns Hopkins University; to Mr. HERBERT PUTNAM, Librarian; to Messrs. DAVID HUTCHESON and A. P. C. GRIFFIN, Assistant Librarians of the Library of Congress, and to Mr. ANDREW H. ALLEN, Librarian of the State Department, and also to Prof. J. M. VINCENT, of the Johns Hopkins University.

The second edition of “Notes on the Nicaraguan Canal,” by Mr. HENRY I. SHELDON, has been issued from the press of A. G. MCCLURG & Co., of Chicago, Illinois (1899). The visit to Nicaragua described in this volume was primarily undertaken in search of some means of stimulating the agricultural interests of the Pacific coast of the United States. It resulted in an opinion and argument in favor of constructing the “Nicaragua Ship Canal.” The subject, owing to the annexation to the United States of the Hawaiian Islands and the possible development of the Philippine Archipelago, has, since the first edition of the work was published, assumed a new aspect. The more pressing need for a shorter water route between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the

United States than by a long voyage around Cape Horn has brought the canal project into greater prominence. Hence, anything bearing upon this phase of the subject attracts special attention. Only one chapter of Mr. SHELDON's book is especially devoted to the description of Nicaragua and its people, while another chapter describes the cities of the Republic. The work contains a number of illustrations and two maps.

"The United States of Mexico, Their Natural Resources, Progress, and Situation," is the title of a handbook prepared by R. de ZAYAS ENRIQUEZ, by the order of Señor Don MANUEL FERNANDEZ LEAL, Minister of Fomento of the Mexican Republic, for distribution at the Paris Exhibition. It is very complete and contains, in concise form, almost all the general information regarding the country that may be of use to foreigners. The book is divided into sections, the first containing geographical, physical, and orographical descriptions of the country, its climate, soil, geology, vegetable products, and political divisions. The second section consists of an account of the political organization, the position of foreigners, the railway system, the financial status, the commerce, industries, taxes, and duties of the Republic. The work also points out the advantages offered to immigrants, both agricultural and industrial, this being one of the most useful portions of the publication. It is suggested that an issue of this work in English will render it of greater value.

"La Terre Chaude Mexicaine" (The Warm Lands of Mexico) is the title to a work written by the Baron MONCHER, Belgian Minister in Mexico, which is being published in serial form by the "Nouveau Monde" of Paris, France. This work is the result of Baron MONCHER's personal study of the southern Mexican States and dwells particularly upon the condition and resources of these States. In order to complete his studies and investigations of the country the Baron has recently undertaken a similar journey in the northern States, the results of which are to be published in continuation of the above-mentioned volume. In imposing upon himself the task of personally visiting these regions and informing himself of the numerous and varied resources of the country, Baron MONCHER is contributing in great measure to the development of the commercial relations between Belgium and Mexico.

"Riparian Lands of the Mississippi River" is the title of a richly illustrated book prepared by Mr. F. H. TOMPKINS. This work is devoted to the history of the country lying along the greatest river in the northern part of the Western Hemisphere, and of the floods that devastate it, and also of the efforts made by the people to protect themselves from the destructive overflows. The story of the levees, which

are the dikes and embankments constructed to keep out the floods, is one of the most interesting narrations of the desperate battle between man and the mighty forces of nature ever written. It is paralleled only in the history of the unflinching warfare of the people of Holland against the waves and tides of the North Sea. The subject is treated not only from the standpoint of the historian, but from that of the engineer, whose science and knowledge have been employed in great undertakings.

The "Bulletin of the Société des Ingénieurs Civils de France" for March, 1900, is devoted to an important extent to a memoir on the French Soudan by Monsieur H. HAMET, including a comprehensive report on the occurrence and production of india rubber in that region. Statistics showing the rate of development of the rubber production in the Amazon basin, and more recently in the Congo Free State, are presented, as indicating the possibilities of the Soudan. Several rubber-yielding species native to the Soudan are enumerated, including the lately much-described "gohine" vine, which seems to be the *Landolphia Hendelotti*. The various methods of extraction and coagulation of rubber are treated, and plates given showing the construction of a mechanical device for this work. The paper concludes with an interesting note on the treatment of the dry or dead bark of rubber plants for the extraction of caoutchouc.

No. 8 of the "Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society" was recently issued from the press of FRIEDENWALD COMPANY, Baltimore, Maryland. The object of this society is to collect and publish material bearing upon the history of the United States, so far as the Jewish people are connected therewith. It is claimed that the Jews in Spain and Portugal participated, in some degree, in the discovery of America, and that there were Jews from Holland, Great Britain, Jamaica, and other countries among the settlers and defenders of the colonies which subsequently formed the Thirteen Original States. The papers which form the present number of the publications of this society are mainly descriptive of the movements of the pioneer Jews of the United States.

For the "Electrical Review" (New York) of March 7, 1900, Mr. HAWTHORNE HILL, associate editor of the "India Rubber World," contributes an article on the "Supply of Gutta-percha." Mr. HILL is regarded as an authority on this subject, which renders his opinion of peculiar value. The construction of the Pacific cable such as is proposed from the United States to the Hawaiian Islands, with a subsequent continuation to the island of Guam and the Philippines, will depend largely upon the possibility of obtaining the required amount of gutta-percha. Mr. HILL is of the opinion that enough of this

article will be forthcoming and cites statistics to that effect. The cable in question will be at least 7,500 miles long, requiring for insulation 400 pounds of gutta-percha per mile, making a grand aggregate of 1,500 tons.

“The American Newspaper Annual” published by N. W. AYER & SON, of Philadelphia, contains, as a new feature for 1900, a list of the periodical publications of Porto Rico, Cuba, and other West India Islands, together with those of Hawaii. This alphabetical list of all the newspapers and periodicals published at each place in every State and Territory of the United States as well as those in the Provinces of Canada is well known. The information given with regard to the newspapers, together with the population of the towns and countries where they are issued, is of great value to advertisers, but the lists of class publications—literary, religious, scientific, medical, agricultural, etc.—are likewise valuable for reference in libraries and editorial offices.

The “Boletín Demográfico Nacional” of the Argentine Republic for January, published in the French and Castilian languages, contains some interesting information. Since the year 1857 over 3,000,000 foreigners have entered the Argentine Republic. Of these, 68,200 were British, and 1,761 came from the United States. Of the British, 32,501 (including 6,754 women) were immigrants. It is calculated that there are now within Argentine territory 26,100 British and 1,700 North Americans, exclusive of descendants of those who have married native Argentines. In May, 1895, there were 2,825 British landowners and 168 United States land owners.

“Cereals” is the title of a new monthly magazine issued in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It is claimed by the publishers that the cereal industry of the United States has assumed such important proportions that it is essential that it have its own direct and adequate representation in the periodical field. This publication will be devoted to the various branches of the industry in the United States in particular, dealing incidentally with news pertaining to cereals in other countries.

In the “National Geographic Magazine,” for April, 1900, Mr. MARCUS BAKER writes interestingly of the Anglo-Venezuelan boundary dispute; Commander WEBSTER describes a recent visit to Korea, and Mr. C. W. HAYES discusses an assumed inconsistency in the level of Lake Nicaragua, a question affecting the permanency of the Nicaragua Canal.

For about a year there has been in course of preparation a work called “La Argentina Monumental,” which will show in a picturesque manner the productive power of the Argentine Republic. It is in

charge of Mr. CARLOS SAVELLI, and when completed will be shown at the Paris Exposition and copies distributed to all the consular offices in Europe and America.

The Sonora Railway is publishing an illustrated book entitled "Sonora, the Empire State of the West Mexican Coast," which will treat of the natural wealth of the State of Sonora in the Republic of Mexico, and of the Territories New Mexico and Arizona in the United States. The author of the work is Mr. ALLEN T. BIRD.

The issue of the "Berichte über Handel und Industrie" (Report on Trade and Industry), Berlin, April 21, 1900, is devoted entirely to a report of Mr. WAETZOLD, Commercial Attaché to the German Consulate-General in New York, upon the commerce and industry of the United States in 1899.

The Philadelphia Commercial Museum has published a pamphlet on the "Merchant Marine of the United States" compared with that of other countries, which contains some very valuable statistics and other matter relative to the growth of the merchant marine of the world.

"El Trabajo Agrícola" is the title of a useful and interesting work which has recently been published in Santa Fé, Mexico, by Mr. HUGO MIATELLO, its object being to systematize the teaching of agriculture in the primary schools.

A map of Salvador, showing the telegraph and telephone lines in the Republic, has just been published under the direction of Messrs. TEODORO GÓMEZ and MANUEL C. MARIONA. It is well designed and its appearance is timely.

A second edition of the history entitled "Reseña Histórica de Sonora," by RAMÓN CORRAL, is being published. This work is said to be the most complete and reliable history of Sonora ever written, and will probably meet with a large sale.

The Mexican Railway Company has issued an Official Guide, which contains valuable information concerning the lines of that company and the country adjacent thereto. It is also valuable as a business guide for general information.

The Department of Agriculture at Buenos Ayres has collected in one volume data concerning commerce, agriculture, colonization, etc., during the past year. The work consists of about 500 pages.

"La Nación," of Buenos Ayres, calls attention to the "Manual of Commerce and Industry" published by P. MILLÁN & Co., of Buenos Ayres. In this work is embodied the tariff of the present year.



"Ariel" is the title of a new book just published in Montevideo by Mr. JOSÉ ENRIQUE RODO. It is a literary work of merit, and is being widely read by the Uruguayan public.

The Mexican Consul at Milan, Italy, has published a pamphlet containing extensive data concerning the Mexican Republic and giving a list of the principal houses engaged in the Mexican export trade.

A new postal guide of the Mexican Republic has just been published under the direction of the Postmaster-General. It is an attractive book, and contains important data relative to the postal service.

## LIBRARY ACCESSIONS DURING APRIL, 1900.

### BY GIFT AND EXCHANGE.

- American Iron and Steel Co. Report of the American Iron and Steel Manufacturing Co., Lebanon, Pa. (1900). 87 pp. 8°.
- Bryan, Henry L. (Comp.). Compilation of Treaties in Force. Act of July 7, 1898. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. 779 pp. 8°.
- Junevo, Manuel Fernández. Los primeros pasos en Castellano. New York, Silver, Burdette Co. 573 pp. 8°.
- Mercantile Library Association of New York. Seventy-ninth Annual Report, 1899. New York, 1899. 26 pp. 8°.
- Merrill, George P. Notes on the Geological and Natural History of Lower California. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1897. 994 pp. 8°.
- National Herbart Society. Supplement to the Fifth Year-Book of the National Herbart Society. Chicago, Herbart Society, 1900. 229 (1) pp. 8°.
- Silk Association of America. Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Silk Association of America, 1872-1900. New York, Silk Exchange Building, 1900. 109 pp. 8°.
- Walton, Clifford Stevens. Civil Law in Spain and Spanish America. Washington, Lowdermilk & Co., 1900. 672 pp. 8°.

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

#### ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

- Anuario de estadística la provincia de Tucuman. Buenos Aires, Compañía Sud-Americana de Billétes de Banco, 1899. 246 pp. 8°.
- Digesto de Hacienda. Buenos Aires, Comp. Sud-Americana . . . 1900. 391 pp. 4°.
- Estadística de los ferrocarriles en explotación. Buenos Aires, Tip. de la Penitenciaría Nacional, 1899. 257 (1) pp. 4°.
- Ley de presupuesto general para el ejercicio de 1900. Buenos Aires, Imp. de M. Biedma, 1900. 439 pp. 4°.
- Leyes nacionales sancionadas en el periodo legislativo, 1899. Buenos Aires, Tip. de la "Revista Nacional," 1900. 199 pp. 4°.
- Tarifa de avalúos en vigencia desde, 1900. Buenos Aires, Comp. Sud-Americana . . . 1900. 250 pp. 4°.

## BOLIVIA.

Memoria que presenta el Secretario General de Estado a la Convención Nacional de 1899. Anexos (Tercera parte). La Paz, Tall. Tip. Lit.-Ayacucho 21 (1899). 372, II pp. 8°.  
(Cuarta parte.) La Paz, Imp. de "El Comercio" (1899). 42 pls. 8°.

## CHILE.

Estadística comercial de la República de Chile correspondiente al año de 1897. Valparaíso, Guillermo Helfmann, 1898. 736 pp. 8°.  
Sinopsis estadística y jeográfica de Chile. Valparaíso, Guillermo Helfmann, 1899. 218 pp. 8°.

## COLOMBIA.

Différend entre la Colombie et la Costa Rica. Paris, 1899. 106 pp. 4°.  
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Restrepo, Vicente. Los Chibchas antes de la conquista española. Bogotá, Imp. de "La Luz," 1895. 239 pp. 4°.  
———. Estudio sobre las minas de oro y plata. Bogotá, Silvestre y Comp., 1888. 334 pp. 8°.  
———. A Study of the Gold and Silver Mines of Colombia. New York, 1886. 320 pp. 8°.  
Silvela, Don Francisco. Límites entre la Colombie et la Costa Rica. Madrid, 1898. 73 pp. 4°.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

Canada. Geological Survey. Report on the Klondike Gold Fields. Ottawa, Government Printing Bureau, 1900. 44 pp. sq. 8°.  
———. Sydney Coal Field. Cape Breton. Ottawa, S. E. Dawson, 1900. 19 pp. 8°.  
Foreign Office. Argument of Great Britain. London, Harrison & Sons, 1898. 55 pp. 4°.  
———. Appendix to Counter Case for Great Britain. London, Harrison & Sons, 1898. 409 pp. 4°.  
———. British-Guiana Boundary. Appendix to Case of Great Britain. Vol. I. London, Harrison & Sons, 1898. 7 vols. 253, 228, 184, 219, 232, 260, 379 pp. 4°.  
———. Case of Great Britain. London, Harrison & Sons, 164 pp. 4°.  
———. Chile. Trade of Coquimbo for 1898. Dip. and Consular Repts. Ann. Ser. No. 2395. April, 1900. 8 pp. 8°.  
———. Counter Case for Great Britain. London, Harrison & Sons, 1898. 142 pp. 4°.  
———. Index to Cases, Counter Cases, and Arguments. London, Harrison & Co. 413 pp. 4°.

## GUATEMALA.

Informe de la Dirección General de Estadística. Guatemala, Imp. Nacional, 1900. 91 pp. 8°.

## MEXICO.

Boletín de estadística fiscal. November, 1899. Mexico, Imp. del Timbre, 1900. 333 pp. 4°.  
———. December, 1899. Mexico, Tip. y Imp. del Timbre, 1900. 413 pp. 4°.

Memoria de la Administración pública, 1898. San Juan Bautista, Tabasco, 1900. 4°. Memoria del Gobernador del Estado de Mexico. Toluca, Tip. del Gobierno, 1897. cvi pp. 4°.

## NICARAGUA.

Gúia ilustrada de Estado de Nicaragua. 1900.

## PERÚ.

Anexos a la memoria del Ministro de Fomento, 1898. Lima, Imp. Escuela de Ingenieros, 1898. 225, 11 pp. 8°. Anexo especial de la memoria de Fomento, 1897. Lima, Imp. Escuela de Ingenieros, 1897. 498 pp. 8°. Asistencia pública de los enajenados. Imp. "La Industria," 1897. 189 (1) pp. 8°. Decretos vigentés y proyecto de ley sobre terrenos de Montaña. Lima, Imp. de "El País," 1897. 19 pp. 8°. Informe sobre las pertenencias de la mina "Santo Domingo" de la provincia de Carabaya. Lima, Imp. "La Industria," 1898. 28 pp. 8°. La Montaña. (Oficial.) 54 pp. 1899. 8°. La Vía Central. 1898. Lima, Imp. "La Industria." 1898. 27 pp. 8°. Memoria del Ministro de Fomento. 1896. Lima, Imp. del Estado, 1896. 73 pp. 8°. —. 1897. Lima, Imp. Gil., 1897. 321 pp. 8°. —. 1898. Lima, Imp. "El País," 1898. 27 pp. 8°. Memoria de la Dirección de Fomento al Ministro del Ramo. Lima, Imp. de Estado, 1897. 48 pp. 8°. —. 1899. Lima, Imp. Escuela de Ingenieros, 1899. 46 pp. 8°. Memoria sobre el camino de Chanchamayo. 1891-93. 1899. Lima, Imp. Escuela de Ingenieros, 1899. 8°. Registro Oficial de fomento, minas, industria y beneficencia. Años I-IV. 1896-1899. 13 vols. Reglamento de explotaciones agrícolas en la Montaña. Lima, Imp. "El País," 1897. 11 pp. 8°.

## UNITED STATES.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Bread and principles of bread making. Helen Atwater. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 39 pp. 8°. Farmers' interest in good seed. A. J. Pieters. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 23 pp. 8°. Cooperative experiments with grasses and foliage plants. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 86 pp. 8°. Germination of seeds . . . G. H. Hicks. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 15 pp. 8°. The cotton crop of 1898-99. J. L. Watkins. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 32 pp. 8°.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Review of the world's commerce, 1898. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899. 187, III pp. 8°. Bulletin of the Bureau of Rolls and Library. No. 9. 1897. Washington, Department of State, 1897. 904, XIX pp. 4°. Consular reports. Vol. LXII, No. 235, April, 1900. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 555, II pp. 8°. Report and accompanying papers of Venezuela Boundary Commission. Vol. I. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1897. 406 pp. 8°.

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## PATENT OFFICE.

Alphabetical lists of patentees and inventions. Washington, Government Printing Office, 2361 pp. 4°.

Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 230, xxii, pp. 4°.

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## TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

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Foreign commerce and navigation of the United States. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 1121 pp. sq. 8°.

Grain trade of the United States. World's wheat supply. January, 1900. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. pp. 1958-2075. sq. 8°.

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Imports of merchandise into the United States, 1899. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 429 pp. 8°.

List of lights and fog signals of the United States. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 149 pp. 4°.

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Monthly summary of commerce of the island of Puerto Rico, September, 1899. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 48 pp. 4°.

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- Código penal y instrucción criminal. Montevideo, Barreiro y Ramos, 1894. 209-560 pp. 8°.
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- Crawford, Robert. South American sketches. Longmans, Green & Co., 1898. 280. 8°.
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- Fletcher, W. I., and Bowker, R. R. Annual literary index, 1899. New York, Publisher's Weekly, 1900. 269 pp. 4°.
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- Smith, W. Anderson. Temperate Chile, a Progressive Spain. London, A. & C. Black, 1899. 399 pp. 8°.
- Veness, W. T. El Dorado or British Guiana. London, Cassell, Petter & Galpin, 1866. 198 (1) pp. 8°.

## PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS PERMANENTLY FILED IN THE LIBRARY.

Persons interested in the commercial and general news of foreign countries will find the following among the official and periodical publications on the permanent files in the Library of the Bureau of the American Republics:

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- Anales del Departamento de Ganadería y Agricultura. Montevideo. Monthly.
- Anglo (The) American Magazine. New York and London. Monthly.
- Argentinisches Wochenblatt. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.
- Board of Trade Journal. London, England. Weekly.
- Boletín de Agricultura, Minería é Industrias. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- Boletín de Estadística. Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Semimonthly.
- Boletín de la Sociedad Geográfica de Lima. Lima, Peru.
- Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Monthly.
- Boletín Demográfico Argentino. Buenos Ayres. Monthly.
- Boletín del Instituto Científico y Literario. Toluca, Mexico.
- Boletín de la Red Meteorológica y Revista Científica. Toluca, Mexico.
- Boletín Legislativo. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.
- Boletín Postal de la Administración General de Correos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos. City of Mexico. Monthly.
- Boletín Telegráfico. City of Mexico, Mexico.
- British Trade Journal. London, England. Monthly.
- Bulletin of American Geographical Society. New York City, New York.
- Bulletin of the Commercial Museum. Brussels, Belgium. Weekly.
- Bulletin of the Free Museum of Science and Arts. Philadelphia, Pa. Quarterly.
- Century Magazine. New York City, New York. Monthly.
- Chicago Record. Chicago, Illinois. Daily.
- Chilean Times. Santiago de Chile. Semiweekly.
- Coal Trade Journal. New York City, New York. Weekly.
- Commercial Intelligence. London, England. Weekly.
- Deutsche Kolonialzeitung. Berlin. Weekly.
- Diario de Centro-América. Guatemala City, Guatemala. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. Bogotá, Colombia. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. Managua, Nicaragua. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. City of Mexico. Daily.
- Diario Oficial. (Laws.) City of Mexico. Daily.
- Diario Oficial de la Republica de Chile. Santiago. Daily.
- Diario del Salvador. San Salvador, Salvador. Daily.
- Diplomatic and Consular Reports. London, England.
- El Agricultor Mexicano. City of Mexico. Monthly.
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- El Comercio. Lima, Peru.
- El Comercio. Managua, Nicaragua. Daily.
- El Correo Nacional. Bogotá, Colombia.
- El Economista. Lima, Peru. Weekly.
- El Economista Mexicano. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.
- El Estado de Colima. Colima, Mexico. Weekly.

- El Guatemalteco. Guatemala, Guatemala. Weekly.  
 El Mensajero. Santo Domingo. Three times a month.  
 El Progreso de México. City of Mexico, Mexico. Weekly.  
 El Republicano. Aguascalientes, Mexico. Weekly.  
 El Siglo. Montevideo, Uruguay. Daily.  
 Export Implement Age. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Monthly.  
 Feilden's Magazine. London, England. Monthly.  
 Field Columbian Museum Publications. Chicago, Illinois.  
 Freir's Colonial and Foreign Register. London. Quarterly.  
 Gaceta Judicial. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.  
 Gaceta Municipal. Guayaquil, Ecuador. Weekly.  
 Gaceta Oficial. Caracas, Venezuela. Daily.  
 Gaceta Oficial. Santo Domingo. Weekly.  
 Geographical Journal. London, England. Monthly.  
 Handel's Kammer zur Hanover. Hanover, Germany.  
 India Rubber World. New York, New York. Monthly.  
 Japan-American Commercial Journal. Tokyo, Japan. Monthly.  
 Jornal do Commercio. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Daily.  
 Journal les Colonies. Saint Pierre, Martinique. Daily.  
 Journal of the Board of Agriculture. London, England. Quarterly.  
 La Escuela Cubana. Havana, Cuba. Weekly.  
 La Enseñanza. Asunción, Paraguay. Semimonthly.  
 La Gaceta. (Official.) Costa Rica. Daily.  
 La Gaceta. Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Weekly.  
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 La Patria. León, Nicaragua.  
 La Plata Post. Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic. Weekly.  
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# BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

## OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

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VOL. VIII.

MAYO, 1900.

No. 5.

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### GOBIERNO PARA PUERTO RICO.

Á continuación se publica un extracto de la nueva ley votada por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos, por la cual se crea un gobierno civil para Puerto Rico, las islas adyacentes y sus aguas situadas al este del 74 meridiano de longitud oeste de Greenwich.

En el Artículo II de la ley se dispone que las leyes arancelarias de los Estados Unidos se apliquen á las importaciones que del extranjero se hagan á Puerto Rico, á excepción del café en grano ó en polvo, al que se le impondrá un derecho de cinco centavos por libra. Todas las obras españolas sobre literatura, ciencias y artes, que no sean subversivas del orden en Puerto Rico, entrarán libres de derechos por un período de diez años, así como también todos los libros y folletos publicados en inglés procedentes de los Estados Unidos.

Los Artículos III, IV y V son como sigue:

Artículo III. El día en que esta ley sea ratificada y en lo sucesivo, todas las mercancías que entren á los Estados Unidos procedentes de Puerto Rico y las que entren á Puerto Rico procedentes de los Estados Unidos pagarán un derecho equivalente al 15 por ciento del que se impone á igual clase de artículos procedentes del extranjero; aquellos artículos fabricados en Puerto Rico que sean introducidos en los Estados Unidos para su consumo ó venta pagarán un impuesto igual al que se impone á artículos semejantes de producción nacional, conforme á lo dispuesto por el Reglamento de la Renta Interior. Este impuesto se pagará en sellos de la Renta Interior. Los sellos se colocarán según lo disponga el Comisionado de la Renta Interior, previa aprobación del Secretario de Hacienda. Todas las mercancías

fabricadas en los Estados Unidos que se importen á Puerto Rico pagarán, además de los derechos arriba mencionados, un impuesto igual al que pagan en Puerto Rico en calidad de impuesto interior, artículos semejantes de fabricación portorriqueña. Á excepción del café, desde el día en que esta ley entre en vigor, todas las mercancías y artículos que hayan estado entrando á Puerto Rico libres de derechos, según las disposiciones emitidas por el Secretario de la Guerra, seguirán exentas del pago de derechos cuando procedan de los Estados Unidos. Cuando la asamblea legislativa de Puerto Rico haya establecido un sistema de impuestos locales para hacer frente á las necesidades del gobierno de la isla, que por esta ley se establece, y haya notificado de ello al Presidente por medio de una resolución en debida forma, este último emitirá una proclama sobre el particular, y acto continuo dejarán de cobrarse derechos sobre las mercancías y artículos que vayan á Puerto Rico de los Estados Unidos ó lleguen á los Estados Unidos de Puerto Rico. En ningún caso se cobrarán derechos después del 1° de mayo de 1902 sobre las mercancías que vayan á Puerto Rico de los Estados Unidos ó vengan á los Estados Unidos de Puerto Rico.

El Artículo IV de dicha ley dispone que los derechos é impuestos recaudados en Puerto Rico de conformidad con la referida ley, así como todas las cantidades recaudadas como derechos ó impuestos en los Estados Unidos sobre artículos y mercancías procedentes de Puerto Rico, no ingresarán en el fondo general del Tesoro nacional, sino que formarán un fondo aparte, que estará á la disposición del Presidente de los Estados Unidos para ser empleado en la administración y en provecho de Puerto Rico, hasta tanto no haya sido organizado el gobierno de dicha isla, según lo dispuesto por esta misma ley, en cuyo caso todas las cantidades que hayan sido recaudadas y que no hubieren sido invertidas serán transferidas al tesoro local de la isla.

El Secretario de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos designará los puertos de entrada en Puerto Rico y dará las disposiciones necesarias para la recaudación de derechos é impuestos, nombrando los empleados que para el objeto se requieran. El citado funcionario fijará así mismo el sueldo que deberán percibir dichos empleados. Agrega el citado artículo que tan luego como se haya organizado el gobierno civil en Puerto Rico y se haya informado sobre el particular al Presidente de los Estados Unidos, expedirá éste una proclama, y de esa fecha en adelante todo lo que se recaude en Puerto Rico como derecho ó impuesto, en vez de ingresar en el Tesoro de los Estados Unidos, se le dará ingreso en el de la isla, para que, como ya lo dispone esta ley, sea invertido en la administración y en provecho de la isla.

El Artículo V dispone que después de la fecha en que comience á regir esta ley todas las mercancías importadas de Puerto Rico con anterioridad á dicha fecha y que no hubieren sido declaradas, así como todas las mercancías que se hubieren introducido sin pagar derechos y bajo fianza para ser almacenadas, trasportadas ó para cualquier otro

fin, sin que al ser introducidas se hubiere dado al introductor ó su agente autorización para retirarlas, pagarán los derechos señalados por esta ley al momento de ser declaradas ó retiradas. El mismo artículo agrega que, cuando los derechos se impusieren de conformidad con el peso de la mercancía depositada en algún almacén público ó particular, dichos derechos habrán de cobrarse con arreglo al peso que dicha mercancía tenía en la fecha en que se le dió entrada.

El Artículo VI dispone que la capital de Puerto Rico será la ciudad de San Juan y en ella residirá el gobierno.

En el Artículo VII se dispone que todos los habitantes de Puerto Rico que hayan sido súbditos españoles hasta el 11 de abril de 1899 y hayan continuado residiendo en dicha isla, así como todos los niños que hubieren nacido con posterioridad á esa fecha y las demás personas que tengan su residencia en Puerto Rico, constituirán el pueblo de Puerto Rico, y como tal tendrán derecho á la protección de los Estados Unidos.

Según el Artículo VIII continuarán rigiendo las leyes y ordenanzas de Puerto Rico que estaban vigentes á la fecha de la promulgación de esta ley, y que por causa de la misma ley ó á consecuencia de una orden militar no hayan sido alteradas, y que sean compatibles con las leyes que rigen en los Estados Unidos.

El Artículo IX trata de los reglamentos para establecer la nacionalidad de los buques pertenecientes á ciudadanos de Puerto Rico, á fin de que gocen de los privilegios otorgados por las leyes de cabotaje de los Estados Unidos.

El Artículo X trata del reglamento de cuarentena.

El XI dispone el canje del peso al tipo ya establecido de 60 centavos oro americano cada uno, y su reacuñación por cuenta de los Estados Unidos. Después de tres meses, á contar desde el 1° de mayo de 1900, sólo tendrán curso legal las monedas de los Estados Unidos.

Por el Artículo XII se dispone que todos los gastos que ocasione el gobierno de Puerto Rico se pagarán por el tesoro de la isla.

El Artículo XIII se refiere al cuidado de la propiedad pública.

Los Artículos XIV, XV y XVI se refieren á la aplicación de las leyes, sus modificaciones, etc.

El XVII dispone que el título oficial del jefe del ejecutivo sea Gobernador de Puerto Rico.

El Artículo XVIII dispone la creación de un consejo ejecutivo, formado por un secretario, un procurador general, un tesorero, un auditor, un secretario del interior, un secretario de instrucción pública y cinco personas más de buena reputación, todos los cuales, incluso el gobernador, serán nombrados por el Presidente de los Estados Unidos, con la aprobación del Senado, por un período de cuatro años.

Los Artículos XIX, XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII, XXIV, XXV y XXVI versan sobre las obligaciones de cada uno de los anteriores funcionarios y sus sueldos.

## LA PRODUCCIÓN DE PETRÓLEO EN EL MUNDO.

Los estudios estadísticos que se han hecho recientemente en varios países, los cuales han sido compilados por la "Iron and Coal Trades Review," de Londres, permiten hacer un cálculo sobre la producción total de petróleo en el mundo. Es éste un asunto que habrá de ofrecer gran interés á los países donde dicho aceite mineral se produce, lo mismo que á aquéllos que de él dependen para alumbrado y combustible.

La cantidad total que se produjo en los Estados Unidos durante el año 1899 fué de 2,058,656,000 galones, contra 2,110,034,000 producidos el año anterior. Las exportaciones en el año de 1899 alcanzaron á 951,024,441 galones, contra 986,480,610 á que ascendieron en el año anterior. Rusia es la nación que después de los Estados Unidos ha producido mayor cantidad de petróleo en 1899, siendo su producción 8,470,931 toneladas, contra 7,841,871 toneladas en el año anterior. La producción del petróleo constituye hoy en dicho imperio uno de los principales ramos de su industria, aunque en los últimos años se ha notado un descenso considerable. La cantidad exportada en 1899 ascendió á 69,738,000 galones. Entre los países que también producen petróleo, los más notables, calculando según la producción en 1899, son los siguientes: Austria, 87,000,000; Sumatra, 72,000,000; Java, 30,000,000; Canadá, 29,000,000; Rumania, 24,000,000; India, 15,000,000. Perú es el único país de la América del Sur que figura entre los productores de petróleo, aunque no se sabe á ciencia cierta la cantidad total que ha producido.

El aceite crudo ha gozado de alza en el precio, pero se espera que á causa del aumento en la producción bajará notablemente.

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## LA INDUSTRIA DE SEDA EN EL MUNDO.

El informe vigésimo octavo de la Asociación para el Desarrollo de la Industria de Seda fué publicado últimamente y contiene muchas noticias de interés. Las tablas que en dicha obra se encuentran son más completas que las publicadas anteriormente, y muestran á cuánto asciende la producción de seda en el mundo y la proporción que en dicha industria corresponde á los Estados Unidos. De 1882 á 1886 la producción fué aproximadamente de 21,234,429 libras cada año; de 1887 á 1891 fué de 25,077,325 libras por término medio; de 1892 á 1896 aumentó á 29,794,728 libras; en 1896-97 se elevó á 30,383,797 libras; en 1897-98 fué de 31,135,565 libras; en 1897-98 fué de 31,135,565 libras; en 1898-99 llegó á 31,812,378 libras, y en 1899-1900 se calcula la producción en 34,457,898 libras.

## LA PRODUCCIÓN DE CARBÓN EN EL MUNDO.

El periódico "St. Louis Globe-Democrat" ha publicado el artículo que á continuación se leerá:

"Durante los últimos dos años el carbón mineral casi ha doblado su precio en Europa, alza que ha impresionado hondamente á los economistas de aquel continente. Desde hace algún tiempo se venía presumiendo el agotamiento de este mineral en la Gran Bretaña, debido á que sus minas, además de ser de muy corta extensión, han sido explotadas de un modo extraordinario. Los depósitos de carbón existentes en los Estados Unidos son de otra naturaleza. La antracita podrá llegar á agotarse en este país, pero no puede saberse á ciencia cierta la duración que alcanzarán las minas del carbón bituminoso.

"Puede afirmarse sin temor alguno que dentro de cincuenta años la producción del carbón de piedra en los Estados Unidos será enormemente mayor de lo que es hoy, aunque ya excede en mucho á la de cualquiera otra nación. Existen muchos miles de millas cuadradas de terrenos carboníferos que los exploradores conocen, pero que aun no se han explotado. Todos los años se hacen nuevos descubrimientos. Ya en Alaska y en las otras nuevas posesiones se sabe existen yacimientos de este combustible. Por la producción que se ha obtenido en una de las pequeñas islas británicas puede deducirse la extraordinaria cantidad de carbón de piedra que existe en los Estados Unidos. Son tan grandes los depósitos por explotar que no es posible hacer un cálculo, ni siquiera aproximado, del tiempo que tardarán en agotarse.

"El carbón de piedra americano se ha estado enviando este año á los puertos del Mediterráneo, y parece probable que en lo sucesivo será uno de los productos más importantes de exportación. La producción es tan grande, que el aumento de precio en Europa ha afectado en muy poco el precio en el mercado americano. Á pesar del alza de precio en Europa, la demanda no ha sufrido aquí alteración alguna. Francia, que en 1898 importó 708,340 toneladas, ha importado 968,450 en 1899. La importación de coque fué casi el doble que la del año anterior. Se dice que en Francia hay grande escasez de carbón de piedra. Alemania y Austria-Hungría sufren idéntico mal. El auxilio que podrían prestarles los Estados Unidos es motivo de discusión en la prensa de estos países. No hay duda de que este país podrá abastecerlos, y como los Estados Unidos hacen progresos tan rápidos en la industria minera, no hay razón para que la escasez de carbón de piedra en Europa pase de ciertos límites. Este nuevo aspecto de la cuestión del carbón pone de realce el lugar preferente que este país ha conquistado con relación á los demás países del mundo."

## LA ESCASEZ DE CARBÓN DE PIEDRA EN EUROPA.

Bajo este lema publica el "Public Ledger," de Filadelfia, en su número de 2 de este mes, el siguiente interesante artículo:

"Los Estados Unidos están exportando carbón, no solamente para Italia y Russia, sino también para Inglaterra. Antes se consideraba el colmo de la locura comercial el mandar cargamentos de carbón á Newcastle. Sin embargo, á Southampton, que está muy inmediato á Newcastle, están remitiendo los americanos el referido combustible. La escasez de carbón en Europa ha llegado á ser una cuestión de mucha importancia. El Profesor BENNETT H. BROUGH, una de las más distinguidas autoridades de Inglaterra en asuntos industriales y de minas, ha publicado en la revista 'The Nineteenth Century,' correspondiente al mes de abril, un notable artículo sobre la situación de la industria carbonera, que probablemente estimulará á los mineros y fabricantes de los Estados Unidos.

"Comienza el Profesor BROUGH manifestando que no sólo en Inglaterra sino en toda la Europa, los consumidores se quejan de la escasez de carbón, y dice que este asunto es de vital importancia para la Gran Bretaña, puesto que su supremacía industrial se ha debido en gran parte á la gran cantidad de carbón que podía producir á precios módicos. Hoy por hoy el precio del carbón en Inglaterra se ha elevado á 40 chelines, ó sea á cosa de \$10 por tonelada, y en algunas partes del país carbón de calidad inferior se ha vendido en pequeñas cantidades á 58 centavos el quintal. No es, sin embargo, solamente la Gran Bretaña la que sufre de esta escasez, sino también Alemania, Francia, Bélgica, Austria y Rusia.

"El Profesor BROUGH declara que la guerra de Africa es apenas responsable por el alza del precio del carbón en Inglaterra, y opina que las causas principales son la extraordinaria actividad que se ha desarrollado en el tráfico de hierro y acero y el aumento en la demanda ocasionado por las huelgas de los mineros.

"Según los datos estadísticos publicados en Inglaterra, los consumidores del mencionado artículo no deben prometerse mucho del presente ni abrigar ilusiones para lo futuro. En 1840 la Gran Bretaña producía el 75 por ciento de todo el carbón que se consumía en al mundo, y hoy solamente produce el 30 por ciento. Las fábricas de hierro y acero han sido siempre factores importantes respecto de la producción de combustible, y dichas industrias han crecido de un modo asombroso. Desde 1870 la producción de hierro en lingotes en todo el mundo ha aumentado de 12,000,000 toneladas á 35,000,000, pero la parte correspondiente á la Gran Bretaña ha disminuido del 48.8 por ciento al 24, mientras que la de los Estados Unidos ha aumentado del 14 por ciento al 33, la de Alemania del 11 por ciento al 20, y la de Rusia del 3 al 6 por ciento. En 1898 la producción fué de 662,820,000

toneladas. De esta enorme cantidad, la Gran Bretaña produjo el 30.40 por ciento, los Estados Unidos 29.63 por ciento, Alemania y Luxemburgo 19.74 por ciento, Austria-Hungría 5.42 por ciento, Francia 4.89 por ciento, Bélgica 3.33 por ciento y Rusia 1.94 por ciento.

“La situación es muy desfavorable en Europa. En Alemania se dispone inmediatamente de todo el carbón que se produce y su alto precio ha llegado á convertirse en una cuestión parlamentaria. En Austria la industria carbonera se encuentra en condiciones lamentables. Los 50,000 mineros de Bohemia, Moravia y Silesia se han aprovechado de la condición del mercado para declararse en huelga, pidiendo un aumento de 20 por ciento en sus salarios y la reducción á ocho horas del día de trabajo. Muchas de las fábricas de hierro se han visto obligadas á suspender sus operaciones por falta de combustible, y esta misma causa ha hecho que dejen de correr algunos ferrocarriles. En Praga hasta las escuelas se han cerrado, y se asegura que la cantidad de carbón disponible está disminuyendo con tanta rapidez, que si la huelga no termina pronto la transportación por ferrocarriles y vapores se hará imposible. En el sur de Francia las autoridades locales se han dirigido al gobierno pidiéndole que suspenda los derechos de importación sobre el carbón, porque, debido á la escasez de este combustible, las fábricas no puedan continuar sus trabajos. En Bélgica y en Rusia la oferta es mucho menor que la demanda, y esto mismo acontece en todos los países europeos.

“Al terminar su artículo, el Profesor BROUGH se expresa de esta manera:

“Las dificultades con que tropieza la Europa ofrecen á la América grandes oportunidades, y si el alto precio del carbón se mantiene, debemos esperar de los Estados Unidos inmensos cargamentos. Los vapores transatlánticos no llevan ya carbón de Inglaterra para su viaje de regreso, sino que lo toman en América. En el mes de febrero el ferrocarril conocido con el nombre de “Paris, Lyon, Méditerranée” pidió 75,000 toneladas de carbón americano, y 50,000 toneladas fueron enviadas de Filadelfia á Italia para uso en las vías férreas. Es muy posible que el tráfico de carbón de los Estados Unidos llegue un día á ser tan importante como el de trigo y algodón, porque mientras que en Europa el precio de este combustible se ha venido alzando constantemente durante los últimos años, en los Estados Unidos ha mostrado una tendencia á disminuir.”

“Si la escasez y el alto precio del carbón continúan en el exterior, los Estados Unidos obtendrán grandes ventajas, no sólo por el aumento en la exportación del artículo, sino más aún por el desarrollo de sus manufacturas, cuyos bajos precios les abrirán los mercados del Viejo Mundo. El carbón caro da por resultado manufacturas caras. Ya nuestra producción de hierro en lingotes es 9 por ciento mayor que la de Inglaterra, y es indudable que continuará aumentando en la misma

proporción. Si el precio del carbón es alto, el del hierro en lingotes tiene que serlo también. En una palabra, la escasez de carbón en el extranjero presenta á este país gran oportunidad para desarrollar sus manufacturas de una manera extraordinaria.”

#### LA CUESTIÓN CARBÓN.

Bajo el lema “La Cuestión Carbón,” publica el “Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina” un interesante artículo, del cual se extractan los siguientes párrafos:

“Un hecho que merece llamarnos seriamente la atención es el alza continua del precio del carbón, alza iniciada á raíz del principio de las operaciones de la guerra Anglo-Boer, y que desde entonces ha adquirido proporciones verdaderamente alarmantes.

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“Nuestra importación de carbón alcanzó el año pasado, según los datos recientemente publicados por la dirección general de estadísticas, á 1,089,416 toneladas, con un valor de \$6,536,493 oro, ó sea 208,000 toneladas y \$1,250,000 oro más que en 1898. El precio de venta normal fluctuaba al rededor de \$6.50 oro la tonelada, mientras que ahora es de \$11.50 á \$12 oro en depósito para el carbón para vapor, y \$9 á \$9.50 oro, para el de uso doméstico y el de fragua, con tendencia á seguir aumentando.

“Por su lado los fletes han subido también, llegando á 13½ chelines, de modo que para cargamentos por vapores se piden ahora 42 chelines c. i. f., sin garantizar la época de la salida de los vapores.

“Tal es la situación. Pagamos actualmente á razón de casi doce millones de pesos oro anuales, lo que en época normal obtenemos por algo más de seis millones. Saldo en contra: casi seis millones de pesos oro, que saldrán del país si esas cotizaciones se sostienen, y que no volverán á él!

“Pero si esta vez, como las anteriores, nos vemos obligados á soportar el mal, podemos y debemos aprovechar la lección, haciendo lo necesario para que en lo sucesivo el mal no se reproduzca.

“Para ello debemos, en primer lugar, emprender resueltamente el estudio y la explotación de nuestras diversas especies de combustibles minerales. Desde hace más de veinte años han sido señalados en distintas regiones del país yacimientos de hulla más ó menos perfecta. En las provincias de Mendoza, San Juan, Rioja y Salta, en los territorios nacionales de la Pampa, Neuquén y Tierra del Fuego, han sido encontrados tales yacimientos, se han traído muestras de sus minerales á la capital y se ha reconocido que se aproximan poco ó mucho á las hullas inglesas. En algunas partes tuvieron lugar principios de explotación, pero pronto fueron abandonados por falta de espíritu de empresa, ó por falta de la competencia necesaria en los explotadores,



porque en esto, como en muchas otras cosas, todo no se reduce á soplar y hacer botellas. Luego, tras el primer fracaso, vino el abandono, produciéndose el silencio completo en toda la línea. Tácitamente resolvimos continuar proveyéndonos en Inglaterra, con la convicción profunda de que si eso no era lo mejor, era lo más cómodo. Y sin necesidad de acuerdos previos, nos entendimos todos para condenar con energía eminentemente criolla las tentativas que algunos hombres emprendedores habían hecho para ponernos en condiciones de proveernos en nuestra propia casa de lo que se llama el pan de la industria; convinimos en que el país no tenía carbón, y durante cierto tiempo fué acto de manifiesta benevolencia concretarse á llamar soñador ó utopista al que sostenía lo contrario.

“Otro de nuestros errores iniciales es el de no haber instalado desde un principio en cada taller y fábrica, en vez de los motores comunes de un consumo enorme de 3 á 4 kilogramos por caballo y por hora, que son los que emplea la gran mayoría de nuestros industriales, los motores perfeccionados, que sólo consumen una reducidísima cantidad de hulla por caballo y por hora y que nos ahorrarían una suma importantísima de dinero. Una falta análoga han cometido aquellas de nuestras industrias en las cuales la fuerza motriz no es más que un accesorio, al no haberse provisto para la producción de las temperaturas que necesitan, de los aparatos perfeccionados que permiten consumir la cantidad mínima de carbón. Pero tales imprevisiones son muy disculpables, dada la forma en que se han montado nuestros establecimientos industriales, cada uno de los cuales representa una enorme suma de esfuerzos pacientes, de labor difícil, que pocas veces daba tiempo y medios para innovaciones de esta índole.

“De todo ello resulta que nuestra industria derrocha considerables cantidades de un artículo costoso y cuyas reservas no son inagotables, mientras que en los Estados Unidos y en Europa el ahorro del combustible en general, y en particular de la hulla, es desde hace tiempo una constante preocupación de sabios é industriales. Y así vemos que para lograr esa economía se vienen haciendo tentativas de diversa índole, tales como la utilización de los gases de los altos hornos para la producción de fuerza motriz y la de máquinas á gases pobres de distintos orígenes. Estas tentativas han tenido buen éxito y puede verse funcionando en los establecimientos COCKERILL, en Bélgica, un motor de 200 caballos que los gases de los altos hornos hacen funcionar, y en Hoerde, Alemania, un motor de 600 caballos. Los talleres de la Gas-motorenfabrik de Deutz, Alemania, han construido cuatro motores de 1,000 caballos y dos de 600, destinados á funcionar por ese medio.

“Aquí mismo, algunos de nuestros consocios emplean ya motores á gas de alumbrado ó á gases pobres, ó motores eléctricos; pero es sensible que en todas las nuevas instalaciones de fuerza motriz no se siga su ejemplo y se prescinda de esos motores que reducen á su mínimo el

consumo de combustible, que no necesitan calderas ni fogoneros, que son de una marcha fácil, de una conservación económica, y que tienen sobre los motores á vapor de agua ventajas tales que su uso concluirá por imponerse, contribuyendo así á solucionar el problema de la disminución de nuestro gran consumo de carbón.

“Para lograr el ahorro del consumo de carbón se han propuesto otros medios más ó menos viables, y hasta se ha estudiado la completa substitución de ese combustible.

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

“El día en que consumamos nuestra propia hulla podremos fabricar hierro y acero, para lo cual poseemos ricos y abundantes minerales, y fabricando hierro y acero poseeremos los dos mayores agentes de poderío de los estados modernos. Recordemos el dicho de ROBERTO PEEL, que los hechos confirman cada día con mayor fuerza: ‘el porvenir pertenece al pueblo que produzca más hulla y más hierro.’ Verdad es que podríamos fabricar hierro con leña en vez de hulla, pero no lo fabricamos y nos contentamos con comprarlo bajo todas sus formas en el extranjero por un valor de 17 á 18 millones de pesos oro anuales, lo que es más sencillo y menos complicado.

“Si queremos impulsar seriamente nuestro desarrollo económico, es imprescindible que sepamos sacar partido de todas las riquezas que la naturaleza ha esparcido por nuestro vasto territorio, y para ello debemos esforzarnos por imitar la conducta, por lo visto eficaz, de aquellos que habiendo partido de la nada, ó poco menos, han llegado á conquistar—esa es la palabra—un lugar preeminente entre los grandes pueblos del mundo.”

## LA PRODUCCIÓN DE COBRE EN EL MUNDO.

En un artículo escrito expresamente para la edición del mes de abril, 1900, del “Mines and Minerals,” bajo el epígrafe de “La Producción de Cobre en el Mundo,” Mr. H. J. STEVENS contesta los cargos que la prensa Europea hiciera respecto á supuestas manipulaciones atribuidas á los importadores de cobre de los Estados Unidos, fundadas en el hecho de que al mismo tiempo que se hacían grandes importaciones de Inglaterra y Gales se verificaban las exportaciones del mismo metal á puertos europeos. Mr. STEVENS afirma que el cobre importado á Nueva York de la Gran Bretaña era casi todo en la forma de la barra chilena, que se supone componerse de cobre refinado, la que por ser aplicable á usos prácticos goza de mucha aceptación en el mercado. Aunque para la industria las barras chilenas resultan excelentes, no así en la metalurgia, á causa de su impureza, pues contienen grandes cantidades de plata que no les ha sido posible extraer á los fundidores de Swansea.

Durante los últimos meses se han importado en los Estados Unidos

muchos miles de estas barras chilenas, y sometidas que fueron á un procedimiento electrolítico en Perth Amboy, Estado de Nueva Jersey, rindieron una cantidad extraordinaria de plata.

Las exportaciones de provisiones y manufacturas que durante los últimos años han hecho los Estados Unidos á Europa, especialmente á Inglaterra, fueron de tal magnitud, que el precio de flete en los barcos de retorno bajó de modo increíble. Aun con estos precios, las compañías de vapores se daban por satisfechas porque en vez de lastre podían traer carga en sus buques. Esto dió motivo á que el flete fuera muy bajo para las barras chilenas, siendo tan grande la cantidad de plata que de ellas se extrajo, que el negocio de su importación produjo pingües beneficios.

Mr. STEVENS, al terminar su artículo, hace la siguiente lógica deducción: “Durante el último siglo los refinadores de Swansea estuvieron en metalurgia á la cabeza del mundo, pero la habilidad de los metalurgicos americanos, quienes han sabido aprovecharse de los trabajos acabados en Gales, obteniendo de ellos por medio de nuevos procedimientos grandes ganancias, demuestra los maravillosos progresos que ha hecho la industria americana.”

#### COBRE EN INMENSAS CANTIDADES.

En su edición del 21 de abril de 1900, el “Public Ledger,” de Filadelfia, publica un artículo del cual se ha hecho el siguiente extracto:

“El progreso extraordinariamente rápido de la industria cobrera en los Estados Unidos, y la proporción tan grande en que este país suministra de dicho metal al mundo consumidor, están demostrados claramente, con la lógica convincente de los números, en una publicación alemana titulada ‘Una Centuria de Cobre,’ en donde se prueba que los Estados Unidos han producido en la década de 1891 á 1900 más de la mitad de la cantidad total de cobre que se consume en el mundo. Este dato aumenta en importancia si se recuerda que en la anterior década este país solo suplió la tercera parte de la producción total del mundo, y que en años anteriores á éstos su producción apenas llegó á la sexta parte de la producción total de dicho metal.

“El aumento en la producción total del cobre ha sido inmenso en este siglo, pues mientras en la primera década solo alcanzó á 91,000 toneladas, ya en la quinta llegó á 291,000, y en la décima, que terminó en 1900, subió á 3,643,000 toneladas, 1,963,000 de las cuales se produjeron en Norte América, la mayor parte en los Estados Unidos.

“La demanda extraordinaria que ha tenido este metal se ve comprobada en el hecho de que, á pesar de que la producción aumentó de 505,909 toneladas en la década de 1851-60 á 3,643,000 toneladas en la década de 1891 á 1900, el precio medio solo ha bajado de £111 á £52 la tonelada. Se observará, pues, que mientras la producción ha sido seis veces

mayor, el precio ha disminuido solamente la mitad. La producción del mundo ha aumentado con asombrosa rapidez durante este siglo, pero en ninguna parte ha sido tan notable como en la América del Norte, principalmente en los Estados Unidos.”

#### ENORME DEMANDA DE MINERALES.

El importante periódico “La Semana Mercantil,” de México, reproduce en su edición del 2 de abril de 1900 el siguiente interesante artículo que publicó “El Tráfico,” de Guaymas:

“Por un fenómeno bien explicable, las minas de cobre valen al presente, como industria, mucho más que las minas de oro, y gradualmente continúan subiendo de precio. En la costa del Pacífico de los Estados Unidos, las propiedades mineras más valiosas y productivas son, indudablemente, las de cobre. Las hay en Montana, Nevada, Utah, Arizona y California, y cualquiera de ellas, considerada como empresa, tiene más precio en el mercado que la mejor mina de oro. En California, por ejemplo, la mina Mountain Copper, situada en el distrito de Shasta, distrito que es notable por su producción aurífera, vale tres veces más que todas las minas de oro de Shasta.

“El valor siempre creciente de las minas de cobre débese á la demanda activísima que tiene ese metal para uso en las industrias y artes, para la construcción de buques de guerra y mercantes y aparatos de electricidad. Por consiguiente, no hay hoy industria donde entra la energía eléctrica como factor, que no tenga así mismo una gran proporción de cobre. De ahí que, no obstante la enorme producción que de ese metal se ha obtenido durante los últimos diez años, la demanda de él vaya siempre adelante, de tal manera que un exceso de producción sea considerado como imposible. Semejante condición en el mercado ha dado estímulo tremendo á esa industria, y por eso vemos que los gambusinos y especuladores andan en busca de nuevos depósitos. Los prospectores que al presente recorren los desiertos y yermos de Arizona, no es en verdad en busca de venas de oro ó plata, sino en busca de ese humilde y bajo metal que ayer mismo era despreciado.

“Y no se crea por esto que el valor de una mina de cobre deba su superioridad, mineralógicamente hablando, á la calidad mejor de sus metales. Por el contrario, una veta aurífera puede muy bien rendir \$100 para arriba en tonelada de metal—metal á través del cual puede distinguirse el oro distribuido en el cuarzo—y no obstante, al incorporarlo, ser de inferior valor á una veta de cobre que rinda solamente una pequeña proporción de cobre por cada tonelada en beneficio. Porque la veta aurífera es usualmente angosta con limitado volumen de metal; mientras que los depósitos de cobre se hallan en grandes masas, de las cuales el oro puede ser extraído en cualquier volumen y con un gasto nominal, sin ocurrir al lento proceso de pulverización. Las minas de

Calumet y Hecla han pagado á sus dueños más de \$60,000,000 en dividendos, de piedra mineral, conteniendo tan solo un 4 por ciento de cobre, lo que es 18 centavos por libra, y rinde \$14.40 por tonelada.

“La mina de cobre Anaconda, de Montana, pagó \$3,000,000 en dividendos el año pasado de piedra mineral con una proporción de 4.64 por ciento en cobre, con un pequeño bi-producto en plata y oro. En Arizona la mina de cobre que más produce es la llamada Copper Queen; rinde como un 8 por ciento. No es esto solo; mineral de cobre ha sido obtenido con ventaja en la región del Lago Superior, el cual únicamente rinde 1.58 por ciento en cobre. Algunos minerales de Montana producen, por otra parte, de 5 á 7 por ciento de cobre y muchas minas, como la de Montana Copper, en el distrito de Shasta, beneficia considerable oro como bi-producto.

“México posee minas de cobre en abundancia, especialmente en Sonora, Sinaloa y otros estados del Pacífico. Nuestros mineros, afanados en busca de metales preciosos, han descuidado explotar ese filón de riqueza inagotable que poseemos, sin duda porque el cobre era hasta no hace mucho un mineral bajo y despreciable. Mas ahora, como lo hemos demostrado, está valiendo en oro lo que pesa, y tiende á subir de precio en los mercados del mundo. Sin el cobre no pueden manufacturarse actualmente aparatos de electricidad, y como quiera que esta energía tiende á avasallar todas las industrias, imagínese la ventaja que tendrá de aquí á veinte años, época en la cual los hornos, las máquinas y los ferrocarriles serán alimentados y movidos por la agencia eléctrica. La configuración geológica de Sonora, como lo decía acertadamente el distinguido ingeniero francés M. MICHEL, consiste en una ‘colosal sucesión de capas minerales integradas en todas las formas’ capaces de abastecer al universo.

“Pero sin el estímulo del gobierno general y la cooperación del gobierno local, toda empresa de esa índole no puede tener éxito. En los Estados Unidos las leyes de minería son más liberales que las nuestras, y con la ayuda de cuantiosos capitales, todo trabajo en ese sentido es practicable. Necesitamos, además, el espíritu de asociación en proyectos de esa naturaleza, pues el aislamiento en minería es una fuerza de inercia. En los tiempos de competencia industrial y comercial que alcanzamos, los sindicatos son una exigencia de la situación, y sin ellos nada puede hacerse en grande escala.

“La apertura del canal de Nicaragua y el activísimo comercio que ya asoma en el Pacífico darán á Sonora la supremacía sobre todos los demás estados de la República; pero esto sucederá no por la situación geográfica que ocupamos, ni por el aumento de las vías de comunicación, sino más bien por el número de productos sonorenses que seamos hábiles á colocar en los mercados extranjeros.

“Ante todo, deberíamos proceder á organizar juntas de minería, de agricultura y de industria, tales como existen en las ciudades de los

Estados Unidos, y trabajar en su seno á fin de organizar empresas que tengan por objeto el engrandecimiento material del Estado. ‘El Tráfico’ tiene á bien ofrecer sus columnas á todos los agricultores, industriales y mineros, para que expongan sus opiniones, y den forma tangible al espíritu de corporación, sin el cual, como ya lo hemos dicho, todo progreso y lucha económica son imposibles.”

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## EL GRAN FERROCARRIL INTERNACIONAL.

El artículo que se leerá á continuación ha sido tomado de “El Correo de Valera,” correspondiente al 15 de febrero de este año:

“La comisión nombrada según la ley de 24 de mayo de 1888 para estudiar el trazo de un ferrocarril desde los Estados Unidos á Buenos Aires, y que ha vuelto en 1898 á Wáshington, al fin ha dado á conocer el trazo que esta gran obra ha de seguir. La línea se dividirá en tres secciones: 1. de la ciudad de México, donde termina la red de los ferrocarriles norteamericanos, hasta San Miguel, en San Salvador. 2. De San Miguel á Colombia. 3. La de Quibdó á Antioquía, cruzando la cordillera occidental y siguiendo por 30 kilómetros el curso del río Cauca, pasará por Cartago y Popayán; luego cruzará la sierra que divide aguas, y bajará por el valle de Patía á Pasto, ó á Ipiales, en la frontera del Ecuador; tocará á los pueblos ecuatorianos de Tulcán, Ibarra, Quito, La Tacunga, Ambato y Cuenca; penetrará cerca de Loja al territorio peruano, en donde seguirá por el Valle del Marañón hasta el Cerro de Pasco, y desde allí subirá por el cauce del río Perené á la meseta central, tocando en Cuzco, bordeando la orilla este del lago Titicaca, hasta empalmar en Huanchaca con el ferrocarril de Antofagasta, pasando por La Paz, hasta el fin empalmar en Jujuy con la red ferroviaria argentina. De esta línea se separarán varios ramales, como el de Caracas, el de Osuro á Sucre y Uberaba, que buscará el empalme con las líneas brasileras, paraguayas y otras. Para la línea principal se aprovecharán los ferrocarriles ya existentes; así que de Buenos Aires (5,439) no habrá que construir más que 3,480 kilómetros. El largo total de la línea principal será de 14,500 kilómetros. El trecho de Quito á Cuzco (2,358 kilómetros) costará \$59,000,000 oro. El mayor inconveniente resulta de la diferencia del ancho de las vías férreas ya existentes, y cree la comisión que será necesario transformar estas líneas, sobre todo, las de vía angosta, paulatinamente.”

## LECHE, CREMA, MANTEQUILLA Y QUESO.

Con este título aparece en el Boletín de la Sociedad Nacional de Agricultura de Santiago de Chile un artículo muy instructivo para los que se dedican á dichas industrias. Dice que algunos hacendados creen que el carácter de la leche cambia según el sistema de alimentación; que se puede hacer dar á una vaca leche á voluntad del dueño, a lo menos hasta cierto punto, y rica en mantequilla ó rica en los componentes que se necesitan para hacer buenos quesos. Esto es, según el citado periódico, una idea equivocada, pues se ha probado muchas veces, por experimentos cuidadosamente hechos, que no se puede aumentar ninguno de los constituyentes de la leche, por medio de cambios en el sistema alimenticio, cuando la vaca en todo caso recibe alimento suficiente y no sufre hambre. Un cambio en la ración alimenticia será siempre seguido de un cambio en la composición de la leche, y especialmente en su contenido de gordura; pero en el transcurso de unos pocos días, cuando se acostumbre la vaca, se operará un cambio gradualmente opuesto, así es que la vaca dará otra vez lo que normalmente daba. La cantidad de la leche no es producida por el alimento, sino que es resultado de la cría. El alimento consumido ha sido sin duda un factor auxiliar en desarrollar los característicos de la cría con respecto á la composición de la leche.

Gracias á los esfuerzos persistentes de los criaderos que han continuado los trabajos de generación en generación, hay hoy día vacas que dan grandes cantidades de leche y muy rica como productora de sustancias adecuadas para hacer quesos. Pero no podemos hacer que una vaca que dé una clase de leche, la cambie por otra clase por ningún cambio en la alimentación; sería lo mismo que si quisiéramos cambiar su color ó la forma de sus ubres.

Agrega el Boletín que por falta de alimento la cantidad de la leche no será la normal, como ha sido probado muchas veces, pero que si se suministran alimentos que contengan una regular nutrición, cualquier cambio en la composición de la leche será sin importancia; y que si se estudia un número suficiente de animales para obtener conclusiones definitivas, se observará que no hay tales cambios notables. Dice en seguida que el alimento en abundancia produce la mayor cantidad de leche que puede dar una vaca; pero que el único método por el cual puede mejorar permanentemente la composición de la leche es escogiendo bien y teniendo vacas de buena cría, deshaciéndose de las que den poca leche y reponiéndolas con las que se sepa que producen rica leche.

Al hablar del efecto del alimento en el sabor, dice el Boletín que, mientras que la calidad de la leche no puede apreciablemente cambiar por el alimento suministrado, se sabe que al sabor se afecta fácilmente

por el alimento, y que continuamente notamos leche con sabor acre, amarga y con gusto á cebolla, lo cual siempre tiene su origen directo en el alimento.

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## EL VALOR DE LA CENIZAS.

En el número 160 de la “Gaceta Comercial,” de México, se registra el siguiente interesante artículo sobre el valor de las cenizas:

“Si se tratase de valuar el provecho que las cenizas de cocina pueden dar al agricultor, usándolas como abono de sus tierras, se encontraría que una tonelada de ellas vale más que una tonelada de maíz, y sin embargo se desperdician generalmente. La mayoría de los terrenos que nuestros agricultores llaman cansados y que necesitan barbecho para producir una nueva cosecha, han cedido su potasa á las plantas que en ellos han crecido y con ello han perdido su fertilidad. Si se les restituye, aumentará su productibilidad notablemente y esto se logra con el uso de las cenizas.

“Deben guardarse con sumo cuidado procurando que no estén expuestas al agua de la lluvia. Son un abono excelente para el maíz, el trigo, el camote, la papa y la alfafa. Recomendamos que en esta temporada se haga un ensayo en pequeño con esas plantas para comparar la producción en terrenos abonados y no abonados con cenizas, y estamos seguros de que los resultados de ese ensayo decidirán á todos los que lo hagan á no desperdiciar en lo sucesivo un abono tan rico como ese.”

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## COMPRESIÓN DE LA HARINA.

Refiere la “Gaceta Comercial,” de México, en su número de 20 de abril de este año, que se ha podido conservar durante un año un bloque de harina comprimida, sin alteración alguna, en una sala ordinaria destinada á laboratorio, siendo el pan obtenido tras este lapso de tiempo de excelente calidad. En cambio, una pequeña cantidad de trigo colocada sobre la misma mesa estaba completamente averiada al cabo de dos meses.

La harina comprimida se halla por tal hecho completamente esterilizada y al abrigo de todos los fermentos capaces de atacarla interiormente durante el período de almacenaje; además, los bloques comprimidos pueden resistir á los ataques exteriores de los insectos mucho mejor que la harina ordinaria.



## CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL DE REGLAMENTOS ADUANEROS.

Entre las asambleas que habrán de reunirse en París el próximo verano durante la Exposición, se cuenta un Congreso Internacional para Reglamentos Aduaneros. Las sesiones se verificarán desde el 30 de julio hasta el 4 de agosto.

El objeto del congreso es discutir los medios de resolver las numerosas cuestiones complejas que resultan de la aplicación de las leyes y reglamentos de aduanas. El programa que formule dicho congreso será sometido á la aprobación de una conferencia diplomática. La cuota de miembro del congreso será 20 francos. Todas las personas que deseen participar en dicho congreso pueden informarse de Mr. MAURICE SCHLOSS, Secretario, Rue de Prony 59, París, Francia.

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## NUEVO SISTEMA DE CULTIVO DE LA REMOLACHA AZUCARERA.

“La Producción Nacional,” de Buenos Aires, correspondiente al 16 de febrero, publica el siguiente artículo:

“Al iniciarse los ensayos de cultivo de remolacha azucarera, se pudo apreciar que el único sistema de cultivo aplicado á la misma estaba basado en la siembra directa de la planta en el terreno que definitivamente debe ocupar, por considerarse como el solo apropiado para la obtención de raíces con la forma y condiciones que exige el tratamiento industrial á que han de someterse en las fábricas de azúcar.

“Este sistema, perfectamente adecuado al cultivo de secano en los climas húmedos del centro y norte de Europa, donde se inició el cultivo de la remolacha azucarera, fué aplicado sin modificación al introducirse dicha planta industrial, sin tener en cuenta que necesitándose el concurso del riego en la mayor parte de las provincias, tal circunstancia origina diferencias importantes en las prácticas culturales y surgen dificultades en ciertos casos, como ha sucedido en alguna región, dificultades que debemos mencionar.

“El procedimiento referido de siembra directa dió resultados poco satisfactorios en las condiciones antedichas, debido en parte á los vientos frecuentes é impetuosos que durante los meses de marzo y abril caracterizan ciertas regiones y hacen que después de los riegos se forme fuerte costra en la superficie, que dificulta de modo notable el crecimiento, quedando las plantas claras y distribuidas irregularmente, y casos hubo en que se hizo preciso labrar el terreno por la mala germinación del grano.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> No podía atribuirse la mala germinación á condiciones defectuosas de la simiente, pues ésta era precisamente ensayada para determinar su facultad germinativa.

“Á la causa citada debe añadirse la naturaleza fuertemente arcillosa de las tierras dominantes en ciertos campos, que hace más perniciosa la acción de los vientos por la tenacidad de la costra formada y falta de permeabilidad para el aire que tan importante papel desempeña en el acto de la germinación.

“Otro de los inconvenientes que presenta el sistema de siembra directa en esta zona, es el de coincidir el período de su desarrollo con la presencia de algunos insectos, especialmente del género *altica*, los que atacando la planta al aparecer los cotiledones ó primeras ójuelas, la destruyen, originando claros en las líneas con los inconvenientes que esto lleva consigo, y si dichos insectos se presentan bajo forma de plaga, destruyen la mayor parte de la plantas, habiendo necesidad de labrar el terreno.

“Con tales inconvenientes, no podía pensarse introducir dicha planta en el cultivo de regadío de esta región, y á tratar de resolver tales dificultades se encaminaron los estudios y ensayos practicados posteriormente.

“Entre los varios procedimientos ensayados con tal objeto, lo fué el que se aplica á algunas plantas, consistente en efectuar la siembra en semillero y trasplantar después el vegetal al sitio definitivo, una vez que ha alcanzado el desarrollo suficiente en el semillero.

“Con la siembra en terreno de condiciones apropiadas, preservado con abrigo de la acción de los vientos y abonado con estiércol y abono mineral, se logra evitar fácilmente el mal efecto de aquéllos y adelantar la germinación por la mayor temperatura que se alcanza con el abrigo artificial. El estiércol, mezclado con la capa superficial, previene la formación de la costra, en gran parte mantiene la temperatura lo bastante alta para que se logre el brote con pequeño número de riegos y en las mejores condiciones durante este primer período, el más delicado para la planta que nos ocupa, como para la mayoría de las cultivadas.

“La pequeña superficie que ocupa el semillero, permite el empleo del estiércol en cantidad bastante para conseguir los expresados fines.

“Una vez que la planta ha alcanzado el desarrollo suficiente en el semillero, debe procederse al trasplante, operación que no presenta inconvenientes por la facilidad con que arraiga la remolacha, cuando se efectúa la rémoda en terreno bien preparado y se hace para seguir el riego, una vez colocada la planta en el tablar ó cantero definitivo.

“Respecto á los ataques de los insectos, ofrece el semillero la ventaja de que adelantándose la siembra un mes próximamente, cuando aparecen las *alticas* ó pulguillas, la remolacha está lo suficiente desarrollada para resistir sus ataques, limitándose á agujerear las hojas, sin destruir las plantas. Por otra parte, sería más fácil combatir éste ú otros insectos por el espacio reducido en que había de operarse, y si á pesar de todo fuera destruido el semillero, lo que es muy raro, la pér-

dida sería pequeña, mientras que es importante cuando se aplica el sistema de siembra directa, pues la superficie ocupada por la planta en este caso es doce veces mayor de la que se necesita para el semillero.

“Resueltas las principales dificultades al principio enunciadas, los estudios posteriores tuvieron por objeto el perfeccionamiento de los detalles del nuevo sistema, que dieron por resultado las prácticas que se enumeran al final de la presente memoria, aplicadas en gran escala en esta región desde el año 1894.

“Diversas objeciones se han hecho á este nuevo sistema de cultivo, tanto en nuestro país como por algunos agrónomos extranjeros, por considerarle unos como impracticable en el cultivo usual ó corriente, y otros como poco económico y defectuoso, además, por la forma que adquieren las raíces como consecuencia del trasplante. Reconocía la primera objeción como fundamento, el que cuando en el método por siembra directa se quieren reponer las faltas colocando las plantas que se arrancan al aclarar las líneas, se observa que muchas no prenden, y si lo hacen, no adquieren en general más que un pequeño desarrollo. El hecho es perfectamente cierto y ha sido quizás la causa principal de no haberse intentado en el cultivo de regadío el ensayo del sistema por trasplante, pero dicho fenómeno se explica fácilmente si nos fijamos en que la operación se efectúa en un terreno apelmazado por los riegos dados desde el momento de la siembra, y por tanto en malas condiciones para la nueva planta, que si llega á prender, desarrolla difícilmente por las ventajas que llevan las que se encuentran próximas, pues las renovadas necesitan de diez á quince días para arraigar y continuar la vegetación suspendida al verificar el trasplante.

“Muy diferente es el resultado cuando la operación se efectúa en terreno bien preparado con buenas labores, pues las condiciones son entonces favorables para un fácil arraigo, y además todas las plantas se encuentran en situación análoga, por lo que se refiere á su nutrición, observándose el hecho que son muy pocas, como ya dijimos, las marras ó faltas, hasta el punto de que en el cultivo ordinario no suelen reponerse por su pequeño número.

“En cuanto á la segunda objeción de que el sistema de que tratamos debía resultar poco económico, sucede lo contrario en el pequeño cultivo en las zonas de regadío. Se comprende que así sea, pues si bien existe el gasto de semillero y remuda, el primero es pequeño, y el trasplante cuesta sobre 10 pesos oro, existiendo, en cambio, una economía importante en la simiente, la supresión del aclaro en las líneas y de la operación de dejar una sola planta en cada golpe menor número de entrecavas por el tiempo más limitado que permanece la remolacha en el terreno, y reducción de jornales al arranque por la forma menos penetrante que afecta la planta y hace más fácil la operación.

“Sólo existiría alguna diferencia en favor de la siembra directa, al operar en extensiones importantes, mediante el empleo de la sembra-

dora mecánica y aparatos de bina arrastrados por caballerías, pero en el pequeño cultivo no tienen fácil aplicación dichas máquinas, resultando por tal causa más económico el procedimiento de que tratamos.

“Por último, el tercer inconveniente que se atribuía al sistema por trasplante se refería, como queda indicado, á la forma más redondeada y corta que adquiere la remolacha y á las raicecillas más numerosas que salen á lo largo de la raíz principal.

“Este hecho, observado desde los primeros ensayos, nos hizo estudiar hasta qué punto la forma irregular de la raíz podría ser un obstáculo para su tratamiento industrial, y se comenzó por verificar numerosos análisis comparativos de remolachas obtenidas por trasplantes y por siembra directa, de los que pudo deducirse que no existían diferencias apreciables en la riqueza sacarina de las raíces y pureza de los jugos si se operaba en igualdad de condiciones de terreno, siendo la misma variedad y análogos los trabajos culturales.

“Respecto á las raicecillas, para determinar su proporción, se hicieron gran número de ensayos, y se obtuvo como resultado medio en los diferentes años que duraron tales estudios la relación de 2 por ciento, aproximadamente, cantidad pequeña; y por tanto, aun cuando hubieran de desaparecer en la operación del lavado mecánico de las raíces en la fábrica, no representarían una pérdida de gran importancia.

“Podía existir una dificultad de mayor transcendencia, motivadas por dichas raicecillas, y consistía en la dificultad del lavado por las bifurcaciones que á veces se presentan en las remolachas de trasplante, pero de las consultas que se hicieron á diferentes fabricantes y constructores pudimos adquirir la convicción de que con los modernos y poderosos aparatos de las fábricas no habría dificultad para que quedaran las remolachas completamente limpias, habiendo tenido ocasión de ver plenamente confirmadas tales indicaciones en el trabajo industrial.

“De lo expuesto se deduce que todas las objeciones que se hicieron al nuevo sistema de cultivo eran infundadas, pudiéndose afirmar las ventajas económicas y culturales del sistema por trasplante, aplicado en el cultivo de regadío de la remolacha azucarera por las condiciones especiales que concurren en la misma.

“Entendemos que este procedimiento podría aplicarse así mismo en el cultivo de regadío, siempre que las condiciones de clima y suelo fueran análogas á las expresadas anteriormente y que motivaron los estudios de que queda hecha referencia.”

## APUNTES SOBRE COMBUSTIBLES GASEOSOS.

Bajo el anterior epígrafe publica el “Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina,” interesante periódico que ve la luz en Buenos Aires, un artículo que trata con abundancia de la cuestión de los combustibles, que constituye el asunto palpitante del día, á causa de la grave crisis por que atraviesa la industria del carbón de piedra.

Sintetizando lo que ya en otros números de dicha revista se ha publicado, el autor del artículo en cuestión se expresa en los términos siguientes:

“Para la industria de todos los países sin excepción, el tema de actualidad es la cuestión de los combustibles, así como el mejor medio de utilizarlos en sus diversos empleos.”

Creyendo el articulista que los combustibles gaseosos habrán de adquirir una supremacía indiscutible sobre todos los demás, se refiere á ellos en estos terminos: “Hasta el día en que se haya resuelto definitivamente el problema de la producción del calor por medio del hidrógeno del agua y la de la fuerza motriz por medio de los gases licuados que toman al aire ó al agua su calor ambiente, debemos esforzarnos por utilizar racionalmente nuestros propios combustibles—leña, turbas, hullas, etc. Tal vez halla quien crea que sea un sueño pensar en obtener el calor por el hidrógeno del agua y la fuerza motriz por el calor ambiente del agua ó del aire, tomando como intermediarios los gases licuados; pero en materia de aplicaciones industriales, se nos prueba cada día que no debemos dudar de nada, y lo que ayer parecía un sueño es hoy una provechosa realidad. Todas las grandes invenciones del siglo que termina eran en su origen consideradas como utopías y sus autores tratados de visionarios. Sin embargo, es á esos visionarios á quienes debemos el vapor, la electricidad, el telégrafo, el teléfono y todas las maravillosas aplicaciones de las ciencias mecánicas, físicas y químicas que surgen á cada instante ante nuestros ojos.

“Según cálculos, á menudo repetidos, puede admitirse que dentro de doscientos años ó poco más, la Gran Bretaña no tendrá ya minas de carbón de piedra, comercialmente explotables. Los yacimientos se encontrarán á una profundidad tal que el trabajo humano se hará imposible por razón de las altas temperaturas que en ellas reinarán. Podrán crearse nuevos medios de refrigeración y de ventilación y hasta de extracción, pero es muy probable que resulten ilusorios, porque el valor del producto no cubrirá los gastos que sea necesario efectuar para extraerlo.

“Para los yacimientos de los otros países de Europa no puede concederse un plazo mayor, si se continúa derrochando la hulla como se viene haciendo desde el origen de su aplicación.

“Londres nos ofrece un ejemplo elocuente del abuso que se hace de los preciosos diamantes negros. Independientemente de los otros combustibles, Londres consume anualmente 8,000,000 de toneladas inglesas de carbón de piedra. La extracción ocasiona la pérdida de una cantidad aproximadamente igual á la cuarta parte de aquélla, que queda en la mina en forma de polvo, sin valor é incomodo.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Para obtener anualmente en Londres un calor teórico de 800,000 toneladas, es necesario consumir 8,000,000 de toneladas y extraer muchas más de las minas.

“La causa principal de tan enorme merma procede de la forma de los aparatos de combustión. \* \* \* También se producen pérdidas por combustión incompleta y por radiación.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Además de la pérdida que resulta de la combustión de los gases, se produce otra originada por la disgregación del carbón, es decir, de la transformación del cuerpo sólido en cuerpo aeriforme, ó bien, en otros términos, del carbono en óxido de carbono y en ácido carbónico.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Se han buscado desde hace más de cincuenta años los medios de combatir la perniciosa influencia del azoe en el fenómeno de la combustión, y en estos últimos quince años se han inventado diversos sistemas de aparatos, por medio de los cuales el carbón, en vez de ser quemado al aire, es trasformado en gas en medio de una atmósfera de vapor de agua. Es lo que se llama el gas de agua, ó gas obtenido por oxidación, para distinguirlo del gas común de alumbrado, obtenido por destilación.

“Estas dos especies de gas difieren esencialmente en su composición. El gas de agua encierra una fuerte proporción de óxido de carbono y pocos carburos de hidrógeno, mientras que el gas común de alumbrado encierra, por el contrario, muchos carburos de hidrógeno y poco óxido de carbono.

“En los procedimientos de preparación del gas de agua, el vapor de agua tiene por objeto obligar á los gases á combinarse; su oxígeno sirve para formar el gas óxido de carbono, y por eso mismo permite la separación del hidrógeno, que es el más combustible y el que da más calor. \* \* \*

“En esos procedimientos no hay más pérdidas de calórico que la que produce la radiación de las paredes exteriores de los aparatos y la que producen las calorías que pierden los gases calentados, pérdidas mínimas, si se las compara con las que resultan de los antiguos procedimientos.”

Después de citar los sistemas de producción del gas de agua á los cuales le atribuye más importancia por sus condiciones prácticas, hace el articulista un examen de las aplicaciones posibles entre nosotros de esos diversos gases.

*“Alumbrado.*—Sólo examinaremos el gas de agua sistema STRACHE y el gas de leña sistema RICHÈ, comparándolos con el gas de alumbrado común, por ser los únicos que se prestan á este empleo. El gas STRACHE y el gas RICHÈ queman con una llama azul que no posee ningún poder alumbrante por sí misma, porque carece de las partículas de carbón que se encuentran en el gas de alumbrado común de hulla. Para utilizarlos en el alumbrado por medio de los picos ordinarios, es necesario carburarlos con aceites, petróleo ó benzol. Pero su muy elevada temperatura de combustión (1,700° para el gas STRACHE y 2,000 para el RICHÈ) los hace eminentemente aptos para ser empleados con picos de incandescencia. En tales condiciones no es preciso carburarlos, y empleando picos especiales se gasta un volumen menor que con el gas común de hulla y se obtiene la misma intensidad de una luz mucho más hermosa.

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

*“Tratándose de esta cuestión del alumbrado, es interesante recordar los resultados á que arribó AIMÈ WITZ como consecuencia de una serie de experiencias prácticas y de cálculos teóricos. Resulta de su estudio que consumiendo el gas de alumbrado común en un motor que acciona con dinamo, se produce por la electricidad una cantidad de luz mayor que quemando directamente el mismo volumen de gas en la mayoría de los quemadores en uso. El manchón de incandescencia es casi la única excepción, y es precisamente debido á esa excepción, y á ella solamente, que el gas de hulla impera todavía, luchando palmo á palmo contra las invasiones de la electricidad.*

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

*“El gas RICHÈ, lo mismo que el gas de agua STRACHE, es muy superior al alumbrado por el acetileno, tanto desde el punto de vista del poder luminoso por pico-hora cuanto desde el del costo.*

*“Fuerza motriz.*—El carbón puede servir directamente para suministrar la fuerza motriz bajo la forma de gas (gas de hulla, gas de agua, gas DOWSON, gas SIEMENS, gas RICHÈ) ó indirectamente por medio de los vapores que produce su calor al evaporar ciertos líquidos (vapor de agua).

*“El empleo del carbón bajo forma de gas para la fuerza motriz es sabido que se efectúa introduciendo en el cilindro del motor de gas volúmenes determinados de gas y de aire, cuya inflamación determina una explosión y una compresión de los gases que, accionando sobre el pistón, accionan el motor. \* \* \* Existe una economía importante en emplear el carbón bajo forma de gas para producir la fuerza motriz, sobre todo, si se agrega al costo del combustible la mano de obra, la amortización, etc., que son mucho menores con el gas, puesto que el personal es mucho más reducido y no requiere los conocimientos que se exigen de un buen fogonero.*

“También conviene notar que la distribución del gas es más fácil que la del vapor de agua, el que pronto pierde su potencia por las condensaciones, cosa de la que no hay que preocuparse con el empleo del gas.

\* \* \* \* \*

“*Calefacción.*—Para las calefacciones, como para la fuerza motriz, se emplea el carbón directamente en hornallas con rejillas, ó bajo forma de gas de hulla, gas de agua, gas DOWSON, gas SIEMENS, gas RICHÈ.

“El empleo directo del carbón y los otros combustibles sólo da lugar, según se ha visto, á la utilización de una pequeña parte de su poder calorífico, ó sea, en general, el 3 y en ciertas calefacciones el 10 por ciento, cuando más. Se sabe, por ejemplo, que en los hornos de las cristalerías, en los de las fábricas de cal, en los de cerámica, sólo se utiliza, en realidad, el 10 por ciento de las calorías que desprenden los combustibles, perdiéndose el resto por las diversas causas que han sido ya enumeradas.

“Con el empleo del gas está probado que se utiliza, por lo menos, el 50 por ciento de las calorías. En tales condiciones el gas se impone y debe reemplazar el empleo directo de la hulla y de los otros combustibles.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Por lo que se refiere especialmente á nuestro país, no poseyendo yacimientos carboníferos explotados, creemos que nuestro interés bien entendido nos aconseja emplear nuestra abunantísima y excelente leña en la producción de los gases destinados á nuestras calefacciones industriales, á nuestro alumbrado, y á nuestra fuerza motriz.

“Todos los sistemas que hemos enumerado, salvo uno—el sistema RICHÈ—exigen el empleo de antracita, de hulla, de tuba ó de coque. Es, pues, el gas RICHÈ que nos conviene mejor, primeramente porque está fundado sobre el empleo de una materia prima—la leña—que poseemos en abundancia, lo que nos evitaría tener que comprar carbón al extranjero; luego, porque su precio es inferior al de todos los otros gases; después, porque su producción nos deja como residuo un excelente carbón de leña, cuya fácil venta cubre el precio de la leña empleada en producirlo, y, en fin, porque el sistema es de instalación menos costosa que los demás. Todas estas ventajas lo recomiendan á la atención de los industriales, tanto más cuanto que en muchas industrias, tales como las curtidurías, aserraderos, etc., donde no se sabe qué hacer con los desechos, ese gas podría obtenerse sin costo ó á precios absolutamente ínfimos, empleándose esos desechos para producirlo.”

\* \* \* \* \*



## LAS OVEJAS Y LAS LANAS.

Refiriéndose á este particular, el “Boletín de la Sociedad Nacional de Agricultura,” de Santiago de Chile, se expresa como sigue:

“La mejor clase de lana se produce por las ovejas merino de pura sangre y es de fibra larga, fina y suave. Se clasifican generalmente de ‘media sangre’ estas ovejas, de ‘tres octavos de sangre,’ y ‘un cuarto de sangre.’ Éstas se refieren á las merinos de pura sangre. Descendiendo esta escala, la lana también desciende, siendo las de un cuarto de sangre productoras de lana de fibra muy ordinaria. Las clasificaciones comunes de ‘fina,’ ‘mediana’ y ‘ordinaria,’ son más fácilmente comprendidas, aunque las diferencias naturalmente resultan según las opiniones de las partes que contratan. Lana de peinar es la adecuada para poderla peinar. Esto consiste en sacarle las fibras para que quede derecha y pareja. La lana de peinar debe ser, por consiguiente, larga y libre de crespos y cadillos, y se emplea en materiales donde se desee suavidad y lustre. La lana para vestidos es generalmente más ordinaria y más corta que la primera y hay que cardarla. El género que produce esta lana es generalmente fuerte y áspero. La lana para alfombras es más ordinaria aun. Todas las lanas son de crecimiento anual.

“La lana que se pasa por máquina para limpiarla completamente de toda materia extraña, incluyendo suciedad y grasa, se llama ‘lana limpia.’ El tanto por ciento de lo que se reduce en peso es base de constante especulación de parte del comprador de lanas.”

Los experimentos científicos en alimentar las ovejas deben ser exactos para tener importancia. Todo el alimento y bebida consumidas durante el experimento deben analizarse y pesarse, como también la porción no comida. La diferencia entre lo que el animal come y evacúa representa el alimento que se ha ido en carne y lana, y también lo que se pierde por respiración. Algunas veces las ovejas, durante el experimento, se ponen en un cajón, lo que científicamente demuestra los efectos de la respiración ó la cantidad de alimento utilizado. Sólo mediante estas incomodidades y trabajo se descubren nuevos hechos ó verdades demostradas.

## FERTILIZADORES.

La revista titulada “Anales del Departamento de Ganadería y Agricultura de la República Oriental del Uruguay” contiene en su edición de 28 de febrero de este año, el artículo que á continuación se reproduce, por ser considerado de interés para los agricultores:

## LA PILA DE ABONO.

“Muchos labradores del campo lamentan continuamente la dificultad con que trapiezan para conseguir todo el abono que quisieran tener

para sus campos, y la necesidad de comprar á precios muy elevados los abonos artificiales, si quieren conservar la fertilidad del terreno, pero no echan de ver que la escasez de los abonos proviene en la mayoría de los casos de la incuria de las personas mismas que sufren el perjuicio. Por más reducidas que sean las circunstancias del labrador que trabaja por cuenta propia, nunca le falta un lugar en que con un gasto insignificante se puede hacer un cobertizo en que instalar lo que llamaremos una fábrica de abono, cuya maquinaria se reduce á algunas horcas y palas de las mismas que usan para las faenas ordinarias.

“El procedimiento de la fabricación consiste en ir amontonando en ese local los excrementos de los animales junto con la paja que les ha servido de cama, los desperdicios que los mismos animales dejan cuando se les ceba, el rastrojo y las hojas de árboles que con muy poco trabajo se pueden recoger en grandes cantidades en los ratos desocupados. Ese montón debe ser, en suma, el repositorio de todas las materias animales y vegetales que se puedan reunir y no tengan otra aplicación más útil. Cuando ya se hayan juntado muchas se les debe regar un poco de vez en cuando, si es posible, con la orina de los animales, manteniéndolas bien pisadas para que retengan la humedad, así como también el amoniaco y el carbónico resultantes de la fermentación. La humedad es indispensable por la circunstancia de que las materias secas no se pudren y por lo tanto no se pueden convertir en abono.

“Hay que tener presente que el objeto principal es procurarse una cantidad abundante de materias solubles que sirvan de alimento para las plantas, y como el amoniaco y el carbónico son muy útiles á este respecto, es conveniente añadir á la pila cierta cantidad de fosfato ácido y de kainita, regándolos sobre ella de vez en cuando, y con esto se tiene en el abono todos los elementos necesarios para la buena nutrición de las plantas.

“No hay que dejar, sin embargo, que el abono se caliente demasiado al fermentar, porque el calor excesivo destruye muchas de las sustancias útiles y esto se puede evitar regándolo y apretándolo bien cuando se vea que empieza á calentarse mucho. Después de formado, el abono se debe esparcir en el campo inmediatamente antes ó después de arar, para impedir la evaporación.”

#### FOSFATOS DE HUESO.

El “Boletín de la Sociedad Nacional de Agricultura,” de Santiago de Chile, reproduce en su edición de 19 de febrero de este año un artículo muy instructivo, que fué publicado en el “Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina,” con el título que encabeza estas líneas. A continuación se transcribe el mencionado artículo:

“Existen dos clases de fosfatos, una que proviene de la mineralización de los cadáveres y excrementos de un mundo animal que ha desaparecido, y la otra que se fabrica con los huesos de los animales

actuales. \* \* \* La mayor parte del ácido fosfórico contenido en los vegetales con que se alimentan los seres vivos sirve para constituir el esqueleto en forma de fosfato de cal. Los huesos contienen, término medio, 20 por ciento de ácido fosfórico, 5 á 6 por ciento de ázoe y 4 por ciento de carbonato de cal. El peso de un esqueleto de hombre adulto es de 4 á 5 kilos, el del buey de 40 á 45, el del caballo de 40 á 45, el de la oveja de 4 á 5, el del cerdo de 8 á 12 y el del ternero de 6 á 12 kilos. Hé aquí el tanto por ciento medio de fosfato de cal de las diferentes clases de huesos: el del hombre 54.54, el del buey 45.20, el de la vaca 59, el de la oveja 50.60. Si casi toda la cantidad de ácido fosfórico contenido en la osamenta de los animales concluye por ser utilizado para el cultivo, no sucede lo mismo con el sistema huesoso del hombre: puede avaluarse en 600,000 kilos el peso anual de ácido fosfórico inmovilizado en Francia solamente por el entierro de personas. Los huesos de los animales en estado bruto rara vez sirven para la agricultura; generalmente son desgrasados, desjelatinados ó trasformados en negro animal y ceniza de hueso.

“ Los huesos verdes, á razón de 12 por ciento de grasa que contienen, se descomponen muy lentamente en el suelo; así que un hueso en estado bruto no pierde sino 8 por ciento de su peso, mientras que esta pérdida alcanza á 25 por ciento en el mismo tiempo para un hueso del mismo peso, pero limpio de grasa. En la industria, para sacar la grasa de los huesos, se empieza por romperlos en pedazos del tamaño de una nuez, haciéndolos pasar por entre cilindros provistos de dientes fuertes. Estos pedazos se colocan en canastos perforados y se ponen en recipientes llenos de agua hirviendo; la grasa se disuelve y nada sobre la superficie del agua. Esta operación se efectúa á veces con bencina ó sulfato de carbono. La grasa obtenida de esta manera sirve para fabricar velas y jabón. El polvo de huesos desengrasados vendido para el cultivo se obtiene pulverizando los residuos de la manipulación precedente; de 6 á 10 por ciento de agua, 3.5 ó 4 de ázoe, 20 á 26 de ácido fosfórico, 0.2 á 0.3 de potasa, 30 á 32 de cal y 11.5 de magnesia; es, pues, un excelente abono completo. Por desgracia, algunos comerciantes despreocupados mezclan este producto con ceniza, yeso, ladrillo en polvo, etc., y solamente por medio del análisis se puede distinguir la falsificación.

“ El polvo de huesos desengrasados vale de 13 á 15 francos los 100 kilos, lo que hace que el kilo de ázoe valga 1.50 francos y el ácido fosfórico 0.35. Es necesario fijarse en el grado de pulverización, y el contenido de materias grasas es muy importante también. Cuando se compran grandes cantidades, para evitar la fermentación, lo que disminuiría su riqueza en ázoe, se conserva en barriles en sitios muy secos. Los huesos desjelatinados, residuos de una industria muy importante, no contienen sino poco ázoe. La desjelatinación de los huesos se hace en recipientes cilíndricos herméticamente cerrados, en los cuales se colocan canastos de hierro que contienen huesos en estado

bruto; la gelatina se disuelve bajo la presión de dos ó tres atmósferas de un chorro de vapor. Los huesos que resultan de esta operación son muy blancos y se pueden romper muy fácilmente. El polvo de los huesos desjelatinados contiene 6 á 12 por ciento de agua, 1 á 3 de arena, 60 á 70 de fosfato de cal, 3 á 6 de carbonato y 0.9 á 1.8 de ázoe. Se vende en el comercio con 27.5 á 29.8 por ciento de ácido fosfórico garantizado. Se cometen muchos fraudes con este producto; el más difícil de conocer es el agregado de un fosfato natural rico que contiene la misma cantidad de ácido fosfórico, pero que tiene menos valor.

“El negro animal empleado para clarificar y decolorar el jugo azucarado se obtiene calcinando en vasos cerrados los huesos brutos. Es un excelente abono completo. Se vende en el comercio, bajo el nombre de ceniza de hueso, un abono fosfatado proveniente de diferente origen; se forma de la pulverización de osamentas de animales antediluvianos encontrados en cavernas de América. Esta ceniza contiene la composición siguiente: carbón y materia orgánica, 3 á 3.5 por ciento; residuos silicosos, 8.5 á 21; fosfato de cal y de magnesia, 66 á 78.2; carbonato de cal, 9.8 á 10 por ciento. Su valor depende del tenor en ácido fosfórico. En Inglaterra se consume mucho. Sobre las playas del Estrecho de Magallanes se encuentran yacimientos de huesos de anfibios que se pueden pulverizar. En la América del Sur se pueden utilizar las osamentas de los animales sacrificados por falta de otro combustible. Las cenizas de estos huesos contienen 78 á 80 por ciento de fosfato de cal, 3 de fosfato de magnesia, 2 de carbonato de cal, 2.5 de materia orgánica y 7.16 de arena.”

\* \* \* \* \*

#### EL GUANO.

El guano desempeña un papel importante desde hace unos cuarenta años en la agricultura; en efecto, fué el primer abono concentrado que se empleó en el gran cultivo. Si hoy se habla menos de él, no es porque su boga haya disminuido, pues, al contrario, se le estima más; pero como los mejores yacimientos se han agotado, se ha hecho más raro el guano en el comercio, y además se le hace sufrir transformaciones, y se le presenta en seguida con otros nombres.

El guano se encuentra en capas más ó menos gruesas en las islas de ciertas localidades de las orillas del mar, particularmente en las costas del Perú, en una extensión comprendida entre el 1° y los 21° de latitud austral. Está formado especialmente por la acumulación, durante una larga serie de siglos, de las deyecciones de las innumerables aves marinas que viven en esas regiones, porque los peces con que se nutren son allí muy abundantes. Son tantas esas aves, refieren los viajeros más dignos de fe, que cuando vuelan forman una nube que oculta el sol. Pertenecen en su mayor parte á las grandes especies de pelícanos, pájaros lobos, cuervos marinos, etc.

El depósito de guano se ha formado naturalmente, además de los excrementos, con los cadáveres de multitud de esas aves que mueren en el lugar donde se reúnen las parvadas por la noche; contiene también restos de pescados y de animales anfibios. El fenómeno de la formación de esos yacimientos continúa produciéndose en nuestros tiempos, pero en menos escala seguramente que en la época en que esas regiones estaban deshabitadas.

Las Islas Chinchas eran las más ricas en guano; venían en seguida las de Guanape, Lobos, etc. En la costa también había importantes yacimientos.

El guano se formó también en otras regiones, pero en menor escala. Se le ha encontrado en las costas de Bolivia, del Ecuador, de Colombia, de Venezuela, de México, de California, del Labrador, algunas otras islas del Pacífico, en las Antillas, en Australia, en algunos puntos de las costas de Africa, de China y del Japón; pero en ninguna parte han tenido los yacimientos ni la extensión ni la profundidad de los del Perú.

La falta casi completa de lluvias permite esas acumulaciones fantásticas de excrementos de aves que llegan hasta 30 metros de altura; en los lugares donde llueve, el abono es menos rico y menos abundante. Se encuentran también pequeños depósitos de guano, en las grutas donde se refugían muchos murciélagos y algunos pájaros.

La composición del guano es muy variable; de allí la necesidad de tenerla en cuenta para fijar su precio; pero es siempre un abono completo que contiene ázoe, ácido fosfórico, cal y una pequeña cantidad de potasa.

Comúnmente se dividen los yacimientos en dos grupos: el de los guanos en que domina el ázoe, cuyo tipo son los de las Islas Chinchas; y el de los guanos en que el ácido fosfórico es más abundante que el ázoe, á consecuencia del lavado de las lluvias, como los de Bolivia y de las Islas Baker.

Se ha llegado á encontrar hasta 16 por ciento de ázoe en algunos guanos del Perú, al estado orgánico y al estado amoniacal, ó sea una riqueza que llega á la del nitrato de sosa. En cuanto al ácido fosfórico, hay de 1 á 2 por ciento al estado soluble, y 8 á 10 por ciento al estado de fosfato tribásico. La potasa está siempre en proporción poco elevada 0.5 á 2 por ciento. En fin, hay siempre una poca de cal, arena y materia orgánica.

Estos guanos eran de color gris claro en las capas superiores del depósito, más oscuro en las de abajo. Tenían un olor fuerte, debido a los ácidos orgánicos y al desprendimiento de carbonato de amoníaco, que resultaba de la fermentación de la masa.

Hace ya mucho tiempo que se agotaron esos yacimientos, pero continúa la explotación de otros situados al sur del Perú, menos importantes, y cuyos productos son un poco más pobres en ázoe, pero más ricos en ácido fosfórico. Contiene por término medio: ázoe, 4 á 8 por ciento; ácido fosfórico, 15 á 20 por ciento; potasa, 1 á 3 por ciento.

Los guanos de las otras partes del mundo, con la misma riqueza, son muy variables en principios fertilizantes. Como su explotación es generalmente más costosa, se importan poco á Europa, excepto los guanos muy fosfatados de Bolivia y de algunas islas aisladas del Pacífico.

Fueron los Incas los que dieron el ejemplo del empleo del guano en agricultura, desde antes de la conquista se servían de él para fertilizar sus tierras. Hacia 1840, comenzó á extenderse su uso en Inglaterra, poco después en Francia, y durante más de veinte años este abono maravilloso fué objeto de una verdadera pasión, á causa de la rapidez de su acción, y de sus efectos en todos los cultivos indistintamente. Se llegó á pagarlo á 60 francos los 100 kilogramos.

Sin embargo, era evidente que la composición química de la materia no podía ser de una homogeneidad perfecta, pues los diferentes sacos que formaban el cargamento de un navío procedían de capas de naturaleza variable, que podían haber sufrido ciertas influencias que los empobrecían, con la acción de la lluvia ó del agua del mar. Así, pues, los resultados económicos no fueron siempre idénticos. Además, esos precios elevados de una materia que se vendía al principio únicamente al peso, sin garantía de análisis, hicieron que los comerciantes poco escrupulosos la falsificaran con tierra, arena, esquistos machacados, ó simplemente mezclándole clases de valor muy desigual.

Para hacer cesar esos escándolos, los químicos libraron una vigorosa campana, y desde hace ya mucho tiempo, la venta se hace basada en el análisis. Como la palabra *guano* indica un abono muy poderoso, muchos comerciantes se esfuerzan por hacerla entrar en el nombre de las materias fertilizantes que fabrican, para atraer mejor al comprador; por eso se encuentran en el comercio, el guano disuelto, fosfo-guano, guano de pescado, nito-guano, etc.

Los sacos de guano deben conservarse en lugar seco, porque de otro modo, se produce en el seno de la masa, una fermentación que ocasiona pérdidas. En el momento de hacer uso de él, es necesario machacarlo, porque los pedazos sólidos no dejarían de quemar la planta que tocaran.

Este abono es excelente en cubierta, aplicado en primavera a los cereales en dosis de 200 á 400 kilogramos por hectárea, según riqueza; dará también muy buenos resultados en los cereales de primavera, y las plantas de vegetación rápida que se siembran en esa época, como las legumbres y las praderas naturales. Si se puede conseguir guano al mismo precio que un abono mineral de composición idéntica, se le debe dar la preferencia, porque la materia orgánica desempeña siempre un papel útil, pero generalmente su precio es un poco más elevado.

Se ha sostenido que el olor del guano ahuyenta los insectos; esta acción es muy dudosa, y no se puede comprarlo caro, atribuyéndole de antemano, otro valor que el que tiene como abono.

Si se carece de estiércol en otoño, se podrá aplicar en esa época la mitad de la dosis de guano, y la otra mitad en primavera. También

en los cultivos de primavera es recomendable la aplicación del guano en dos operaciones; demanda un poco más trabajo, pero produce un aumento en la cosecha. Este fenómeno se produce por lo demás, con todos los abonos concentrados, cosa que no ignoran los cultivadores.

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## ACCESORIOS DE LAS INSTALACIONES DE LÁMPARAS DE ARCO.

De la edición española del "Scientific American" (La América Científica é Industrial) para el mes de mayo del presente año, se ha tomado el artículo que sigue:

En las instalaciones nuevas las lámparas se separan bien unas de otras, lo que permite encenderlas y apagarlas en conjunto ó en parte, sin perjudicar la buena marcha del alumbrado.

Se intercala también en el circuito de cada una de las lámparas un indicador de marcha que permite comprobar si las lámparas funcionan ó nó, sin separarse del cuadro de distribución.

También se puede instalar una campanilla eléctrica para darse cuenta de las extinciones, disponiendo la campanilla de manera que toque por la acción de las mismas agujas indicatrices del aparato indicador. Asimismo cada lámpara debe estar protegida por un plomo de seguridad.

Es absolutamente preciso, en las distribuciones en tensión, colocar un distribuidor automático en cada lámpara de arcos, para que, en el caso de apagarse alguna, el circuito quede restablecido pasando por una resistencia que consuma la misma fuerza.

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## LA SAL EN LA ALIMENTACIÓN DE LAS VACAS.

Dice "El Boletín de la Sociedad de Agricultura," de Santiago de Chile, en su edición de 5 de febrero de este año, que si técnicamente la necesidad de la sal en la alimentación de las vacas está hoy día generalmente admitida, el empleo de este precioso coadyuvante no está todavía generalizado en la práctica, y que la ventaja del empleo de la sal y su influencia incontestable y evidente sobre la producción de la leche no pueden ser ya objeto de duda. Agrega que se encuentra todavía la prueba de ello en una serie de experiencias que acaban de hacerse en la estación experimental del Mississippi, y cuyos resultados son éstos: del 20 de febrero al 18 de marzo se habían puesto en ensayo tres vacas, á las cuales no se les dió sal; la leche de cada una fué pesada dos veces por día, del 4 al 18 de marzo. Del 18 al 1° de abril estas mismas tres vacas recibieron cada una 125 gramos de sal por día. El rendimiento de leche durante estos dos períodos fué el siguiente: en

el período con sal, 564 libras; en el período sin sal, 454 libras, lo que da una diferencia de 110 libras en favor de la sal y prueba maravillosamente la utilidad de su empleo.

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## POSIBILIDADES DEL ACEITE DE MAÍZ.

El artículo que á continuación se publica ha sido tomado del periódico "Modern Mexico," correspondiente al mes de mayo de este año:

"Un rival del aceite de semillas de algodón, como sustituto del aceite de comer, se promete en al aceite de maíz. Este es uno de los productos secundarios del maíz. Hay en cada meollo de este grano una pequeña mancha amarilla, conocida por los expertos con el nombre del 'germen.' Antes de embarcar el maíz para la exportación debe quitarse este germen; de otro modo habrá rancidez y el cargamento corre peligro de ser destruido. La operación para la remoción de este germen se conoce por degenermar, y su procedimiento resulta en la producción de una substancia oleaginosa que hasta ahora sólo se ha usado como un sustituto para el aceite de linaza en la fabricación de pinturas y para engrasación. Se han hecho de cuando en cuando esfuerzos para utilizarla como alimento, pero no habiéndose podido librarla de sus desabridas cualidades, estos esfuerzos han sido inútiles.

"Se anuncia ahora en el Oeste, sin embargo, que se ha inventado un medio de operación que se garantiza clarificará, desinfectará y hará este aceite de maíz agradable al paladar, sin pérdida material y á un insignificante costo de diez centavos el galon. Ahora se obtienen anualmente 5,000,000 de galones de aceite crudo de maíz de los molinos americanos, y como que sólo se ha usado la degenermar con el maíz embarcado para la exportación, la cantidad puede ser aumentada indefinidamente. Los químicos que han estado experimentando pretenden, según los periódicos de Chicago, que el aceite de maíz es mucho más digestivo que cualesquiera de los aceites que ahora se usan para objetos culinarios. Sin embargo, probablemente se le disfrazará como aceite de oliva."

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## REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

### NUEVO MINISTRO ACREDITADO Á LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El 5 del mes corriente fué recibido por el Presidente de los Estados Unidos el nuevo Ministro de la República Argentina, Señor Don EDUARDO WILDE, quien fué presentado por Mr. JOHN HAY, Secretario de Estado de los Estados Unidos.

El Señor WILDE, al presentar sus credenciales al Presidente McKINLEY, también puso en sus manos la carta de retiro de su predecesor,



el Señor Don MARTÍN GARCÍA MÉROU. Á continuación se leerán el discurso pronunciado por el Señor Ministro de la República Argentina y la contestación del Presidente de los Estados Unidos:

#### DISCURSO DEL SEÑOR WILDE.

“SEÑOR PRESIDENTE: Pongo en manos de Vuestra Excelencia la carta credencial autógrafa del Señor Presidente de la República Argentina, que me acredita en el carácter de Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario, y la carta de retiro del Ministro GARCÍA MÉROU.

“El Jefe de mi Gobierno me encargó especialmente expresar sus votos por la continuación de los sorprendentes progresos de esta gran República y por la felicidad personal de Vuestra Excelencia.

“Séame dado, al mismo tiempo, manifestar los sentimientos de sincera amistad que la nación argentina abraza por este país, y también los de alta estimación y simpatía que él y su Gobierno me inspiran.

“Me halaga la esperanza de contar con la buena voluntad de Vuestra Excelencia para mantener las relaciones de natural aproximación entre los Estados Unidos de Norte América y la República Argentina, continuando así la obra de mis predecesores.”

#### CONTESTACIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE.

“Estoy profundamente agradecido por los buenos deseos que por vuestro medio me expresa el Señor Presidente de la República Argentina, deseos que coinciden con los que hacia él abrigo.

“Espero que la paz y prosperidad de que actualmente goza vuestro país continuarán bajo el ilustrado Gobierno que rige sus destinos.

“El Gobierno de los Estados Unidos no economizará esfuerzo alguno para mantener y fortalecer las relaciones amistosas que existen entre esta nación y la República Argentina, y me será muy grato poder contar para este objeto con vuestra valiosa cooperación.”

#### KEROSENE EXTRA-REFINADO.

El artículo que á continuación se publica ha sido tomado de “La Revista Mercantil de Buenos Aires:”

“En nuestra publicación última, dimos noticias á nuestros lectores de la aparición en el mercado del primer cargamento de petrolina, introducido por la casa GANDOLFI, MOSS, PELLERANO Y CA., y en esta revista tenemos que hablar nuevamente de este producto de la industria petrolera de Nueva York, porque en treinta años que venimos actuando en el comercio de esta plaza, no hemos presenciado un movimiento y un interés tal como el que ha despertado la petrolina, tanto en el comercio mayorista de plaza como en los comerciantes de la campaña y provincias; y la explicación es lógica.

“El kerosene común ó refinado es de consumo universal. Norte

América solamente ha exportado el último año (1898) la enorme cantidad de 1,034,269,676 galones, ó sea, en números redondos, el equivalente de cien millones de cajones, y como la petrolina viene á suplantar el consumo del kerosene refinado, por su mayor refinación y perfecta clarificación, está explicado el interés que ha provocado, como aconteció en la República de México y las de Centro América, y como ha sucedido aquí á su aparición; porque convencido el consumidor de las ventajas de economía que le presenta la petrolina, unido á que su precio es el mismo del kerosene refinado, tiene forzosamente que abandonar á éste, dando en lo sucesivo su preferencia á la petrolina, no sólo para ser empleada en el alumbrado, sino también en las cocinas, máquinas trilladoras, etc., cuyas ventajas también son incuestionables.

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## COSTA RICA.

### NUEVO SISTEMA MONETARIO.

El Señor Don JOAQUÍN BERNARDO CALVO, Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de Costa Rica en Wáshington, ha tenido la bondad de remitir á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas el importante decreto últimamente expedido por su Gobierno, y el cual se publica á continuación:

“RAFAEL IGLESIAS, Presidente Constitucional de la República de Costa Rica:

“Considerando: que la situación económica del país reclama imperiosamente, para su mejor organización y desarrollo, el establecimiento de hecho del nuevo patrón monetario fijado por la ley de moneda de 24 de octubre de 1896;

“Considerando: que la cantidad de la nueva moneda nacional de oro acuñada hasta hoy, y la que está próxima á llegar al país, ordenada por el Gobierno, responden bien á las necesidades del cambio, y es, por lo tanto, llegado el caso de hacer efectiva su circulación;

“Considerando: que han sido llenadas por el Gobierno las previsiones establecidas por el contrato Quirós-Coronado, de 25 de setiembre de 1896, para el efecto de la circulación del colón de oro,

“Decreta:

“ARTÍCULO 1º. Del 15 de julio próximo en adelante, deberán presentarse al Banco de Costa Rica, Administrador de las Rentas Públicas, para su cambio por oro, todos los certificados de oro emitidos por el Gobierno, que se encuentren en circulación en aquella fecha.

“ARTÍCULO 2º. Á medida que se efectúe por el banco el cambio de los certificados, éstos se irán depositando á la orden de la Secretaría de Hacienda, á fin de que sean incinerados con las formalidades de ley, previa su confrontación con las actas de emisión respectivas.

“ARTÍCULO 3°. Todas las obligaciones existentes el 15 de julio próximo, contraídas en moneda nacional, se regirán por la nueva moneda de oro (el colón), en la proporción de un colón de oro por cada peso actual de plata. En esta misma proporción se hará efectivo el pago de todos los impuestos y contribuciones fiscales, y continuará circulando con las reservas establecidas por la ley de moneda vigente, la actual moneda nacional de plata.

“Dado en la ciudad de San José, en la Casa Presidencial á los diecisiete días del mes de abril de mil novecientos.”

#### IMPORTANTE COMUNICACIÓN.

La Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas ha recibido del Señor Don MANUEL ARAGÓN, Miembro Correspondiente Honorario de la Unión Internacional en San José de Costa Rica, la interesante comunicación que se leerá en seguida y que lleva la fecha de 20 de abril de 1900:

“Esa Oficina publicó en su BOLETÍN MENSUAL, correspondiente á marzo de 1898, una reseña de la reforma que la República de Costa Rica proyectaba hacer en su sistema monetario, la cual reforma tenía por base la sustitución de la antigua unidad monetaria que consistía en 25 gramos de plata en la ley de 0.750, por la nueva unidad que la forman 0.778 de oro de 0.900 de ley. La moneda antigua se denominaba peso: la nueva debe llamarse colón; éste subdividido en cien partes llamadas céntimos ó centavos. La ley que proyectó ese cambio lleva la fecha del 24 de octubre de 1896, y se reprodujo en el BOLETÍN de la Oficina, noviembre de 1896, y después en edición por separado.

“Como el medio circulante de Costa Rica, al emitirse la citada ley que cambiaba la unidad monetaria, se componía de metálico y de papel moneda, el Gobierno debía tomar en cuenta la posición del Banco de Costa Rica, el cual por un contrato del año de 1884 tenía el privilegio de ser el único banco emisor, para procurar la amortización gradual del papel en circulación, de modo que al hacerse efectiva la sustitución del oro por la plata, no resultaran perjudicados los intereses de aquel banco ni los del público. Á esa previsión obedeció el contrato que el Gobierno y el banco hicieron el día 25 de setiembre de 1896, el cual llegó á ser ley de la República el 5 de noviembre de 1896.

“Cotizando á  $60\frac{1}{2}$  centavos oro americano la plata en barras por onza de 0.999 de fino, resulta que el antiguo peso de plata de Costa Rica que solo contiene  $18\frac{3}{4}$  gramos de plata pura equivale apenas á  $36\frac{1}{2}$  centavos en oro americano, mientras que el colón de oro (la nueva unidad monetaria) que se compone de 700 miligramos de oro fino, vale  $46\frac{1}{2}$  centavos oro americano, y es éste el valor que les da la Casa de Moneda de los Estados Unidos.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Á este respecto véase lo siguiente, al folio 1542 del BOLETÍN correspondiente al mes de marzo de 1898: “La ley de moneda decretada de conformidad con este plan establece el colón de oro como unidad monetaria, y fija la relación de valor entre éste

“Esa diferencia de 10 centavos oro, que resulta de la comparación del valor intrínseco de las monedas de oro y plata, sería suficiente para establecer conflicto entre la circulación de ambas monedas simultáneamente con valor á la par, si en el nuevo sistema monetario no se hubiera cuidado de hacerle á la plata que corre hoy un lugar preciso en la circulación de mañana. Con ese intento se ha cuidado de que no se acuñen monedas de valor menor de cinco colones en oro, y se cuidará igualmente de que el signo que llegue á representar los colones de oro tampoco baje de aquel valor. No habiendo otra representación que la plata para los valores inferiores á cinco pesos, claro parece que queda asegurada la función de la moneda blanca, tanto para la circulación de cantidades adonde no pueden llegar el oro ni el billete de banco, como para el cambio de éstos cada vez que se requiera el uso de moneda fraccionaria.

“La cantidad de moneda de plata que circula, junto con la que actualmente tiene el Banco de Costa Rica formando parte de la reserva metálica que respalda la circulación de sus billetes, asciende aproximadamente á \$1,600,000, que, distribuidos entre 320,000 habitantes que se calculan á la República hoy, da cinco pesos por habitante, proporción de plata que no parece exagerada, dadas las condiciones de limitación que se han indicado para el valor del oro y del papel moneda, es decir, que no bajarán de cinco pesos.

“La plata acuñada que el banco tenía en reserva el 31 de diciembre próximo pasado ascendía á 1,000,000 de pesos, de la cual tendrá que deshacerse en gran parte, una vez que la plata no será valor legal del 15 de julio de 1900 en adelante por cantidades mayores de diez pesos. Así es que llegada esa fecha el banco no podrá usar la moneda de plata para el cambio de sus billetes en cantidades mayores de aquella suma. Por esto se supono que aquel establecimiento creará desde ahora la necesidad de la plata en la circulación, retirando sus billetes de uno y de dos pesos.

“La cantidad de oro acuñado que hay á la vista para la implantación real del oro se compone de dos y medio millones de colones que el Gobierno tiene ya y de un millón más que recibirá dentro de pocos días. Ambas cantidades hacen tres millones y medio por parte del Gobierno. Á esa suma se agregan quinientos mil colones que el Banco de Costa Rica ha acuñado también por su propia cuenta. Total, cuatro millones.

“Se ha calculado que con dos y medio millones de colones en oro

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y el actual peso nacional de plata, estimado con relación al estado de la riqueza pública, informada por el medio circulante, por el promedio del tipo de cambio internacional durante varios años, y por el último promedio del valor de la plata con relación al oro en igual período. De esta suerte, quedando también establecida, por el mismo hecha, la paridad de valor entre el billete del banco y el certificado de oro, se han alejado posibles trastornos en las obligaciones existentes, é intereses de cualquiera naturaleza y en el valor actual de todas las cosas.

acuñado, según el contrato con el banco, basta para principiar la vigencia real del nuevo sistema monetario. Dentro de poco se dará la ley que fija el precio á que serán de curso legal las principales monedas extranjeras. Según la comparación del valor intrínseco, esas monedas extranjeras tendrán en Costa Rica curso á los precios siguientes: un colón oro de Costa Rica igual á  $46\frac{1}{2}$  centavos oro americano;  $22\frac{1}{8}$  peniques oro inglés; 2.41 francos oro francés; 2.29 *crown* oro de Austria-Hungría; 1.274 pesos oro chileno; 2.41 pesetas oro español.

“Las monedas de los otros países de la Unión latina se regirán por la equivalencia del oro francés.

“El marco alemán (oro) equivaldrá á 0.512 de colón, desde que éste equivale á 1.953 marcos de oro alemán.

“Hay quien suponga que las monedas de oro del nuevo sistema emigrarán del país, porque el comercio las exportará para abonar las pastas al crédito de su cuenta. Podrá acontecer que eso se haga en casos aislados; no podrá hacerlo el comerciante serio, porque de las mismas monedas ha de necesitar para el pago de los derechos fiscales que causa la internación de las mercaderías.

“El día que para el pago de los derechos de aduana no tenga la moneda metálica, tendrá que pagar los impuestos y los mismos derechos con letras de cambio á satisfacción del Gobierno, quien en ese caso cobrará del mismo comerciante los gastos de acuñación de las pastas, las comisiones, seguros de mar y fletes, que ocasionará la reposición de la moneda exportada.

“Como la ley que establece el régimen del oro para del 15 de julio, 1900 en adelante, acaba de publicarse, todavía la prensa no la ha comentado.

“Desde que se principiaron las acuñaciones de colones, y á medida que éstas se han hecho, el Gobierno ha emitido certificados (billetes al portador) por un valor equivalente al oro depositado de la nueva moneda. El cambio de esos certificados es el que tiene en mira el artículo 1º, decreto del Poder Ejecutivo, fecha 17 de abril corriente.

“Inútil es decir que si desde que se inició la reforma ésta fué mirada con particular interés, hoy que se acerca la realidad de aquella reforma abundan los fervientes deseos de que sea hacedera la transición que traerá consigo inmensos beneficios.

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## CUBA.

### NUEVA COMPAÑÍA FERROVIARIA.

“The New York Commercial” dice que ha sido presentada en la secretaría de estado, de Trenton, Nueva Jersey, una solicitud para la organización de una nueva compañía de ferrocarriles, con un capital de \$8,000,000. Los trabajos de la citada compañía se iniciarán con un

capital de \$2,500,000, siendo su objeto construir en Cuba tranvías y ferrocarriles de vapor ú otra fuerza motriz cualquiera. El valor de cada acción es de \$50,000.

“Á continuación se verán los nombres de los fundadores, así como el número de acciones correspondiente á cada cual: W. C. VAN HORN, W. C. WHITNEY, LEVI P. MORTON y THOMAS RYAN, 8 cada uno; C. G. HAVEN, 6; E. H. HARRIMAN y J. J. HILL, 4 cada uno; W. L. BULL, 3, y H. H. L. TERRY, 1.”

#### ENTRADAS DE ADUANA EN LA HABANA.

Las entradas de aduana en la Habana durante los primeros tres meses de 1900 ascendieron á \$3,126,414.70, contra \$2,348,888.75 en el mismo período del año de 1899. Como en estos tres meses está incluido el de febrero, que es el más corto del año, pues que cuenta veintidos días de trabajo solamente, se considera muy notable el aumento de \$777,525.95.

#### NUEVO VAPOR CORREO.

El 14 de abril de 1900 fué botado al agua en los astilleros de los Sres. WILLIAM CRAMP É HIJOS, de Filadelfia, el hermoso transatlántico “Castillo del Morro” con que la línea de vapores “New York and Cuba Steamship Company” piensa aumentar el servicio entre Nueva York y la isla de Cuba. El “Castillo del Morro” una vez terminado será uno de los barcos más grandes que se han construido en los Estados Unidos. Sus dimensiones son 400 pies de eslora, 50 de manga y 22 de calado. Sus máquinas tendrán una fuerza de 8,000 caballos, que harán andar al buque á una velocidad de 18 nudos por hora. El barco podrá llevar unos 243 pasajeros, y su decorado interior será de mucho lujo. Su total se costo calcula en unos \$700,000.

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### ESTADOS UNIDOS.

#### COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

##### IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 810 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de marzo de 1900, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los nueve meses que terminaron en marzo de 1900, comparados con igual período de 1899. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las

diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Departamento de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión; de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de marzo, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en mayo.

### EL COMERCIO EXTERIOR EN MARZO DE 1900.

El comercio exterior de los Estados Unidos durante el mes de marzo de 1900 ha sido notablemente mayor que el del mismo mes del año anterior.

Al hacerse un examen de las importaciones de ambos años se observa que casi las dos terceras partes del aumento que han tenido las mismas lo forman los artículos en estado crudo para industrias nacionales, cuyo valor es casi el 39 por ciento del valor total de las importaciones. El aumento en las importaciones durante el mes de marzo de 1900 equivale al 20 por ciento de las del mismo mes del año anterior. El tanto por ciento de los artículos introducidos libres de derechos fué 46.27, mientras que en el mismo mes del año de 1899 fué 47.36.

Según clasificación hecha por la Oficina de Estadísticas de la Secretaría de Hacienda, el valor comparativo de las importaciones es como á continuación se expresa:

	1900.	1899.
Artículos de alimentación y animales .....	\$21,824,142	\$22,837,356
Artículos en estado crudo para industrias nacionales .....	33,869,075	25,640,080
Artículos en todo ó en parte manufacturados para uso en las artes mecánicas .....	7,929,219	5,866,373
Artículos manufacturados, libres para el consumo .....	12,868,074	9,951,249
Artículos de lujo .....	9,998,410	8,525,688
Total .....	86,498,920	72,820,746

### LAS EXPORTACIONES DE MANUFACTURAS.

En cuanto á las exportaciones de artículos manufacturados, los datos estadísticos muestran que el mes de marzo fué muy notable, como que hubo un aumento por valor de más de \$8,000,000. Con respecto á los cereales se nota cierta disminución en algunos y algún aumento en otros. Sin embargo, la exportación de productos agrícolas, en general, aumentó considerablemente. El número de barriles de harina exportados fué de 1,475,724, contra 1,625,605 en el mes de marzo de 1899. Se exportaron 6,448,706 barriles de trigo, contra 8,338,999 en el mismo mes del año anterior, y 39,917 *bushels* de centeno, contra 328,070 en 1899. Hubo también una disminución de 1,500,000 *bushels* de maíz en la exportación de este artículo y un aumento de 500,000 en la cantidad de avena que se mandó al exterior. Durante los nueve meses del actual año económico el aumento en el número de *bushels* de trigo exportado fué de 41,000,000, y en el de maíz de 32,000,000, pero hubo una disminución de 400,000 barriles en la harina exportada.

Las exportaciones durante marzo de 1900, comparadas con las del mismo mes de 1899, son como sigue:

## EXPORTACIONES.

	1900.	1899.
Productos de la agricultura.....	\$77, 936, 395	\$59, 102, 301
Productos de las manufacturas.....	44, 767, 139	36, 109, 231
Productos de las minas.....	3, 573, 349	2, 689, 660
Productos de los bosques.....	3, 764, 754	3, 414, 425
Productos de la pesca.....	877, 558	327, 122
Productos varios.....	860, 355	606, 717
Total.....	131, 779, 550	102, 249, 456
Reexportación de productos extranjeros.....	2, 522, 279	2, 310, 233
Total.....	134, 301, 829	104, 559, 689

El total de los derechos recaudados durante el mes de marzo de 1900 fué de \$22,090,681, contra \$20,933,436 en el mismo mes del año anterior.

**ESTADO DE LA AGRICULTURA.**

Los datos suministrados á al Oficina de Estadísticas del Departamento de Agricultura hasta 1° de mayo de 1900 prueban que el área de trigo de invierno bajo cultivo en esa fecha se componía de 26,585,000 acres, ó sean 3,563,000 acres (equivalentes á 11.8 por ciento) menos que la que se sembró en el otoño pasado. La disminución de terrenos cultivados en los principales estados, á causa del invierno y de los estragos de la mosca Hessian, es como sigue: Indiana, 1,608,000; Ohio, 969,000; Michigan, 317,000; Pennsylvania, 158,000, é Illinois, 137,000 acres. El promedio para la superficie que quedaba en 1° de mayo de 1900 era 88.9. Á pesar de que este promedio es dos puntos mayor que el obtenido durante los últimos diez años, que fué superado solamente tres veces en un período de quince años, debe tenerse presente que, la superficie cortada para forraje, arada ó abandonada por cualquier motivo excepto en California, donde no se ha podido averiguar de un modo exacto, ha sido enteramente eliminada. El alto promedio que en el mes pasado se alcanzó en Kansas, Missouri, Texas y otros estados más ó menos importantes en la producción de trigo, y que se han librado de los estragos de la mosca, se ha mantenido incólume, y para el 1° de mayo la condición de casi la mitad del área total de trigo bajo cultivo había mejorado notablemente.

El promedio en la condición del centeno de invierno el 1° de mayo de 1900 era 88.5, contra 85.2, que se obtuvo en 1° de mayo de 1899 y 89.7 que ha sido el promedio en mayo durante los últimos diez años. Pennsylvania y Nueva York, que cuentan con el 42.1 por ciento del total de terreno cultivado de centeno de invierno en el país, han alcanzado 11 y 4 puntos respectivamente menos que los promedios que obtuvieron durante diez años. Kansas, que ocupa el tercer lugar en la escala



de cultivo, tuvo 107 por ciento de promedio, que es el mayor de que se tiene noticia se haya alcanzado en el mes de mayo.

El promedio de la condición de los terrenos para pastos en 1° de mayo era 90.8, contra 84.9 en mayo de 1899, y 91.3 que fué el promedio medio para el mes de mayo durante los últimos diez años. El promedio de la condición de los pastos de primavera era 91.3, contra 90.9 que fué el promedio medio para el mes de mayo durante los últimos diez años.

La labranza de primavera ha sufrido más ó menos atraso en casi todos aquellos estados en donde su condición es importante. El trabajo realizado en todo el país se calcula en 68.4 por ciento de todo el que se tiene en proyecto realizar. La proporción de trabajo que generalmente se alcanza en mayo es de 75 por ciento, más ó menos, del total.

#### CENSO DEL GANADO.

La industria ganadera será objeto de especial atención en el duodécimo censo que empezará á tomarse el día 1° de junio del corriente año. Las estadísticas hechas en años anteriores comprenden solamente el ganado que se halla en las haciendas. De los animales que se encuentran en condiciones distintas no se ha hecho mención alguna. El censo del ganado, á consecuencia de esta omisión, ha sido muy imperfecto, no habiéndose hecho nunca una estadística completa de la industria pecuaria, que constituye una de las principales riquezas nacionales. Con objeto de evitar omisiones como la anteriormente señalada, el Congreso ha pasado una ley autorizando al Jefe de la Oficina del Censo para que recoja cuantos informes se relacionen con el ganado que no se halle en las haciendas. La Oficina del Censo, con este fin, ha abierto una nueva cédula en donde habrá de consignarse el ganado que se halle fuera de las haciendas. Combinando los resultados de dicha nueva cédula con los de la que se ha venido usando hasta ahora, se obtendrá una estadística completa respecto á la cantidad y calidad del ganado existente.

Los animales se clasificarán según su edad, siguiéndose el mismo sistema que se emplea para las personas, aunque no en tan detallada forma. El ganado vacuno se clasificará en dos clases, los animales que tienen un año y los que tienen más. Los caballos y las mulas se clasificarán también por edades, lo mismo que los animales de la raza lanar. El ganado de cerda y el cabrío así como los burros no se clasificarán por edades.

El objeto de esta clasificación es averiguar el aumento en el número de caballos y mulas y el que se obtenga en el ganado vacuno y lanar.

#### EL ESQUILEO POR MEDIO DE MÁQUINA.

El corresponsal del "Chicago Record" en Sycamore hace una descripción del sistema que se emplea en varias partes de los Estados

Unidos para el esquileo de carneros. Las tijeras mecánicas son muy parecidas á las que se usan en las barberías, con la única diferencia de que los dientes de la esquiladora son tres veces mayores, de manera que con solo un corte queda esquilado un espacio de dos pulgadas y media.

La fuerza motriz se obtiene por medio de una máquina de gasolina, y es conducida por correas á un árbol de transmisión, de donde pasa por ruedas dentadas que hacen funcionar las maquinillas esquiladoras. El esquilador no tiene más que guiar dicha maquinilla en cualquiera dirección que desee, parando ó haciendo mover el instrumento á su voluntad.

El establecimiento en Sycamore contiene diez maquinillas. Detrás de cada una hay un redil, donde caben diez ovejas, las cuales se cuentan al pasar por el pasillo que las conduce al esquileo. Con cuatro cortes queda esquilada la barriga del animal, y con pocos más queda éste perfectamente esquilado. Al terminar la operación del esquileo, ya el esquilador no tiene para que ocuparse más del animal. Un empleado amontona la lana y otro la recoge para meterla en sacos de 250 libras cada uno.

Con este sistema de esquileo se molesta muy poco al ganado y se evitan las heridas que con frecuencia se le infieren con el sistema de la tijera generalmente empleado. Cada carnero rinde de 6 á 8 libras de lana, y el esquilador recibe 6 centavos por cada animal que trasquila. Hubo un operario que en doce horas esquiló 275 animales, ó sea á razón de dos minutos y medio por animal.

#### AUTOMÓVILES PARA LAS FILIPINAS.

El Cuerpo de Señales del ejército de los Estados Unidos ha adoptado recientemente carros electro-automóviles para ser usados en las islas Filipinas. Los carros son de dos tipos, uno que se emplea para el transporte de los materiales y otro para la conducción de los individuos del Cuerpo. Los primeros son muy parecidos en su forma á las ambulancias; tienen ruedas de goma y son movidos por una batería eléctrica de treinta horas de duración, cuando el peso que arrastran no pasa de 1,500 libras. Cada carro contiene un motor de tres y medio caballos de fuerza en cada rueda trasera. La velocidad máxima es de 10 millas por hora. Los carros del otro tipo son algo más elevados pero en lo demás son casi iguales á los otros. Todos ellos están provistos de luz eléctrica en los lados, y los primeros tienen también en su interior. El uso de automóviles en los ejércitos es cosa en la que ya se han fijado las naciones de Europa, pero los Estados Unidos han sido los primeros en introducirlos en ese servicio.

#### PIELES DE PESCADOS.

La Comisión de Pesquerías se ha estado ocupando de coleccionar pieles de pescados y otros animales acuáticos, particularmente de aque-

llas que podrán emplearse en usos prácticos. Hay varios peces cuya piel es sumamente útil; la del salmón, por ejemplo, la usan los esquimales de Alaska para la manufactura de calzado y camisas impermeables. También hacen trajes de la piel del bacalao. En los Estados Unidos se emplea en la encuadernación de libros finos la piel de la rana. Algunas tribus salvajes hacen unas cotas de la piel del *Tylosurus marinus*, de dureza tal que no es posible traspasarla con el acero. Una bala podría traspasar esta piel, pero se dice que no es fácil que de un solo hachazo se logre cortarla. Al mismo tiempo que el referido peto, dichos salvajes usan un casco hecho de la piel del puerco espino, de cuyas púas se valen para embestir á manera de carneros en los combates cuerpo á cuerpo.

La "Gloucester Isinglass and Glue Company" ha fabricado calzado de la piel del bacalao. En el Yukón Bajo, Alaska, los habitantes usan unos pantalones de pieles curtidas de pescados. De la piel del tiburón se hacen mangos para fustas, y hay también estuches para instrumentos, cubiertos de esta misma piel, á la que se le da el nombre de *shagreen*. Se dice que la piel de la ballena es admirable para ciertos objetos, y la piel del marsuino es un material excelente para la fabricación de asentadores de navajas. Entre la colección de pieles de pescados, curtidas en diferentes colores, perteneciente á la Comisión de Pesquerías, se halla la de la foca. Esta piel se obtiene de cierta clase de foca diferente de la que produce las pieles finas con que se hacen abrigos de invierno; se emplea generalmente en la fabricación de carteras de bolsillo. Esta variedad de la foca es muy abundante en el Atlántico y como su pesca no es difícil, su empleo en la industria puede alcanzar grandes proporciones. La piel de la vaca marina (walrus) ha sido también empleada en la industria, pero como la exterminación de este animal se realiza de una manera alarmante, bien pronto se echará de menos su piel en el mercado. Otra de las pieles que se ven ya de venta es la del elefante marino, que hasta hace pocos años se encontraba en las costas del Pacífico hasta cerca de California; pero su pesca ha sido tan enorme, que ya apenas se encuentra este animal. Otra de las especies de este animal acuático se halla en los mares antárticos, particularmente en las islas Kerguelén. Cuando han alcanzado su mayor tamaño el peso de este animal es de 2,000 libras y mide 18 pies de longitud.

La Comisión tiene también entre su colección la piel del manatí, animal que se encuentra en las aguas de Centro y Sud América. Su peso es de una tonelada, y se alimenta de plantas acuáticas. Su pesca se hace generalmente por medio de redes ó nasas, que se tienden en los lugares donde va á alimentarse. El esqueleto del manatí, como una curiosidad para los museos, vale cien pesos.

Naturalmente, en la citada colección hay pieles de caimanes y cocodrilos, lo mismo que de la culebra de agua llamada *moccasin*, piel que

se emplea en la manufactura de cinturones y carteras de bolsillo. Son las pieles de pescados las que mayor interés atraen, y es á ellas á las que la Comisión desea, en primer lugar, llamar la atención, por lo que prometen en la industria manufacturera.

#### PROVISIÓN DE AGUA EN PUERTO RICO.

El Profesor H. W. WILSON, empleado de la Oficina de Estudios Geológicos, acaba de regresar de Puerto Rico, adonde fué con el objeto de estudiar las fuentes de riqueza de dicha isla. Á juicio de Mr. WILSON, uno de los hechos relacionados con Puerto Rico y su progreso es el que muchos de sus ríos ofrecen admirables facilidades para la generación de fuerza motriz. Tanto para usos domésticos como para la producción de fuerza, el volumen de las aguas existentes es relativamente grande. Á pesar de que la abundancia citada se refiere á la zona norte de la isla, también es cierto este hecho con respecto á las comarcas del sud, aunque no en igual medida. En conjunto, la isla es de carácter montañoso, y una gran parte de sus ríos se precipitan al mar con una velocidad considerable. Naturalmente, en volumen las aguas no tienen importancia alguna; su valor estriba en el hecho de que pueden fácilmente aprovecharse para la generación de fuerza, debido á la impetuosidad de las corrientes.

Casi todas las poblaciones de alguna importancia están abundantemente provistas de agua, sin embargo de que ciudades como San Juan y otras más dependen en gran parte de las aguas pluviales. No es posible depender de estas aguas para alimentar las bombas de incendio y verificar el riego de calles y cloacas. Á pesar de que existen grandes facilidades para la generación de fuerza motriz, se ha hecho uso muy insignificante de ellas. El descenso de las aguas es tan rápido, que ríos bastante caudalosos se precipitan de una altura de 1,000 á 1,500 pies con velocidad tal, que en el trascurso de 5 á 10 millas quedan no más que á 100 pies sobre el nivel del mar. Debido á esta circunstancia es que existen muchas cascadas y saltos que pueden fácilmente utilizarse en la generación de fuerza motriz.

#### AZÚCAR EN EL HAWAI.

Mr. ROBERT THOMPSON, ex-director del Departamento Botánico de Jamaica, ha dirigido un informe al Gobierno británico referente á la producción de azúcar en las Islas Hawai, en el cual dice que el promedio de rendimiento de azúcar por acre es mucho mayor en estas islas que en cualquier otro de los países del mundo productores de azúcar. En la isla de Maui, por ejemplo, el promedio es de tres toneladas y media por acre. El de Hawai no es muy grande á consecuencia de la mala calidad de los terrenos de su zona seca, pero aun así el rendimiento no baja de 4 toneladas por acre. El promedio en la isla Kauai es de 4 á 5 toneladas y en Oahu de 6 á 7. Hay, sin

embargo, haciendas en las mencionadas islas que rinden mayor cantidad de azúcar por acre que el promedio que se obtiene en la isla en conjunto.

Una sola hacienda de Oahu, por ejemplo, produce 10 toneladas por acre, y ha habido épocas en que en ciertas secciones de la misma hacienda se han cosechado 16 toneladas de azúcar por acre. Dice Mr. THOMPSON que, al compararse estos resultados con los que se obtienen en las Antillas inglesas, la producción en éstas resulta insignificante. En Jamaica se ha venido cosechando por muchos años menos de 1 tonelada por acre; en la Guayana inglesa, en Trinidad y la Barbada  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tonelada, poco más ó menos. En estas colonias se ha logrado una cosecha de 5 toneladas por acre, pero esto ha sido sólo en pequeñas superficies de 5 ó 10 acres y en circunstancias excepcionalmente favorables. Tres toneladas es lo que con frecuencia se obtiene en áreas de mayor tamaño.

#### LA INDUSTRIA DE SARDINAS.

Después de Francia los Estados Unidos es el país que mayor cantidad de sardinas consume. En 1899 se consumieron 2,000,000 de cajas, equivalentes á 200,000,000 de latas, de las cuales 1,400,000 procedieron de las pesquerías del estado de Maine, 150,000 de las de California y 450,000 se importaron de Francia. Hace treinta años todas las sardinas que se consumían en los Estados Unidos venían de Francia, pero hoy las tres cuartas partes del total de sardinas consumidas proceden de los 51 establecimientos para esa industria que existen en el estado de Maine, en los cuales se hallan empleadas 6,000 personas.

La pesca de la sardina en Maine se hace en el río St. Croix y en la bahía Passamaquoddy. La pesca se hace por medio de nasas ó redes, en donde se cogen de una vez de 2,000 á 6,000 sardinas. El precio de estas varía entre \$2 y \$2.50 el millar. Del mercado americano se exporta una gran cantidad de sardinas para los países de Centro y Sud América.

#### LA ISLA DE GUAM.

El Señor LEARY, Gobernador de la isla de Guam, ha remitido al Señor Secretario de la Marina de los Estados Unidos el censo de la población de dicha isla, según el cual tenía ésta el 1° de enero de 1900, 8,661 habitantes. De éstos había 3,128 varones de más de 7 años de edad; 3,680 mujeres, también mayores de 7 años, y 1,853 niños de ambos sexos menores de 7 años.

La cantidad sobrante en la tesorería, después de hechos los pagos correspondientes, era \$4,819.09.

#### NUEVA ORLEANS COMO MERCADO DE CAFÉ.

Una gran parte de los estados del Sur depende de Nueva Orleans como puerto de entrada. Antes de la construcción de vías férreas, el

tráfico de dicha ciudad con los estados del norte y del noroeste por medio de los vapores del Mississippi era inmenso, pero los ferrocarriles casi han acabado con ese comercio. Últimamente el puerto de Nueva Orleans ha recuperado su antigua importancia, debido principalmente á la importación de café de la América Central y del Sur. Parece que en este año se ha importado más café por el puerto de Nueva Orleans que por cualquiera otro de los puertos americanos. Á este respecto ha publicado el "New Orleans Picayune," correspondiente al 30 de abril próximo pasado, un artículo muy interesante.

#### **GRAFITO EN WISCONSIN.**

Dice el "Chicago Record" que el grafito va á ser una fuente de riqueza en el estado de Wisconsin. Se asegura que hay una mina que produce un grafito igual al que se extrae de las minas de Hungría. Este depósito fué descubierto en 1893 por Mr. E. E. TAGGART, y se ha formado una compañía por acciones con el objeto de explotarlo.

#### **INDUSTRIA DE PUERCOS DE 1899 Á 1900.**

El periódico "Cincinnati Price Current," al hablar de la industria del puerco durante la estación que terminó el 1° de marzo de 1900, dice que, comparada con la del año anterior, hubo una disminución considerable, pues solamente se mataron 8,675,000 cerdos, ó sea 1,044,000 menos que en el año precedente.

#### **IMPORTACIÓN DE CAJAS DE RELOJ AMERICANAS EN SUIZA.**

El "Commercial Intelligencer," de Londres, refiere que la importación de cajas de reloj americanas en Suiza ha llegado á tomar tales proporciones, que los relojeros del país están tratando de impedir que continúe. Como en esta industria la Suiza ha ocupado por largos años un lugar prominente, no es de extrañar que le cause alarma la competencia de los Estados Unidos.

#### **AUMENTO EN LA PRODUCCIÓN DE CARBÓN DE PIEDRA.**

Calcula Mr. EDWARD W. PARKER, del Departamento de Estudios Geológicos de los Estados Unidos, que la producción de carbón de este país en 1899 ascendió á 258,539,650 toneladas de 2,000 libras cada una. Esto significa un aumento de 17.5 por ciento en comparación con el año de 1898. El valor total del carbón producido es, según Mr. PARKER, de \$259,435,412, ó sea un aumento de \$51,000,000 sobre la producción de 1898.

#### **LA INDUSTRIA DE CUERO.**

En la reunión de la Asociación Nacional de Manufactureros que se verificó en Boston últimamente, Mr. RICHARD YOUNG leyó un trabajo relativo á la evolución que se ha operado en la industria de cuero en

este país. La producción de este artículo ha aumentado de tal modo, que durante los últimos ocho meses se han importado 60 millones de pieles de cabra, contra 40 millones importados en el año anterior. La exportación de suela durante el mismo período ha aumentado 20 por ciento.

#### **EXPEDICIÓN CIENTÍFICA Á SIBERIA.**

Una expedición compuesta de los Sres. NORMAN C. BUXTON, americano, WALDEMAR COGARES y WALDEMAR JACKELSON, rusos, salió del puerto de San Francisco el 18 de abril de 1900 con el propósito de explorar las regiones desconocidas de la Siberia Occidental.

Uno de los principales objetos que se proponen los mencionados exploradores es averiguar si los indios de América descienden ó no de la raza malaya. Los miembros rusos de la expedición se ocuparán más particularmente de la etnología del país, el idioma y música, costumbres y rasgos característicos de las tribus que habitan la región noroeste de la Siberia. Mr. BUXTON dedicará la mayor parte de sus exploraciones á la zoología del país, con el fin de coleccionar animales para el museo del Parque Central de Nueva York. Se supone que la ausencia de los mencionados exploradores durará unos dos años.

#### **DEMANDA DE LANCHAS.**

El periódico "The Exporters and Importers' Journal" en su edición del 14 de abril de 1900 dice que la demanda de lanchas de poco calado y de manufactura americana ha sido muy grande de parte de los países de Centro y Sud América. Los que primero hicieron pedidos de lanchas fueron los norteamericanos que han hecho compras de haciendas en estos países, quienes han sido imitados por los hacendados de los mismos. Una sola casa de Nueva York ha enviado 30 lanchas de vapor y de naphtha para dichas repúblicas. En el transcurso de una semana se han embarcado tres lanchas, una para Bocas del Toro (Colombia) y dos para Puerto Cortez (Honduras).

#### **RECAUDACIÓN DE RENTAS INTERNAS EN EL MES DE MARZO.**

El mes de marzo de 1900 la recaudación de rentas internas arroja un total de \$24,326,677, que representa un aumento sobre la que se hizo en igual fecha del año anterior equivalente á \$1,588,228.

#### **LA ACUÑACIÓN DE MONEDA EN EL MES DE MARZO.**

La acuñación de moneda en el mes de marzo próximo pasado ha sido mayor que la de cualquier otro mes desde enero de 1899, en el cual se acuñaron monedas por valor de \$19,705,590, todo en monedas de oro, á excepci3n de \$1,642,000 en monedas de plata. La acuñaci3n durante el mes de marzo 3ltimo mont3 á \$17,075,688.32, de lo cual se hicieron \$12,596,240 en monedas de oro. El total de la plata acuñada mont3 á \$4,341,375.70; níquel por valor de \$104,593.85, y cobre por

valor de \$33,478.77. Durante los nueve meses del presente año económico, incluso marzo de 1900, la acuñación en todas las casas de moneda de los Estados Unidos montó á \$106,732,213.84.

### EXENCIÓN DEL PAGO DE DERECHO DE TONELAJE.

Según la ley recientemente aprobada relativa al gobierno de Puerto Rico, los barcos que entren en los Estados Unidos procedentes de Puerto Rico, desde el 1° de mayo de 1900 en adelante, ó que entren á Puerto Rico de los Estados Unidos, estarán exentos del pago de derechos de tonelaje; pero los barcos que entren en Puerto Rico de cualquiera otra procedencia que no sea los Estados Unidos pagarán los derechos de tonelaje.

### DESARROLLO DE LA INDUSTRIA DEL ALUMINIO.

“El Economista,” de Lima, en su edición de 31 de marzo de este año, publica sobre el desarrollo de la industria del aluminio en los Estados Unidos, el siguiente artículo:

“En el último semestre de 1899 la producción del aluminio en los Estados Unidos llegó á 10,000 libras diarias, siendo el mayor aumento que se ha producido en un solo año, y se comprende que sea así en vista de las muchas industrias que empiezan á emplear el llamado metal del porvenir. Lo que más ha atraído recientemente la atención sobre el aluminio ha sido el empleo de este metal en el casco del cazatorpedos americano *Defender*. Ha tenido también algún influjo el que sean ya tres las fábricas de bicicletas que lo apliquen á sus máquinas. Hay también una casa constructora de carruajes que construye de aluminio las cajas de éstos. Tiene no poca parte también en el consumo la infinidad de objetos que antes se hacían de cobre, de latón y aun de hoja de lata, que ahora se hacen de aluminio.

“Ha empezado á usarse también en baúles. Se hacen también tambores, planchas litográficas, dedales para coser, violines, baños de esponja y otra multitud de artículos. Tras esto vienen sus aleaciones de todas clases con todos los metales, y es cada vez más usado en forma de ferro-aluminio para moldear el acero. Otro empleo importante ha empezado á hacerse en el metal para tipos de imprenta, y el empleo de 5 á 15 por ciento de aluminio unido al plomo y al antimonio produce tipos más duraderos y que dan impresiones más limpias. De todo cuanto se dice sobre aluminio nada tiene tanta importancia como lo que se asegura respecto á lo que algunos están llamando, quizás prematuramente, un nuevo metal. Contra la gran ventaja de la lijereza que posee el aluminio, tan interesante en algunos casos, tiene grandísimos defectos para otros que hacen imposible el aprovechar aquellas ventajas. El aluminio es relativamente blando y poco rígido, no se suelda bien, y es muy difícil de moldear porque llena mal los moldes.

“Ha habido muchas capacidades tratando de remediar esos defectos,



y así como el hierro al convertirse en acero ha ganado mucho en utilidades, un fabricante pretende haber encontrado un modo de modificar el aluminio tan radicalmente que hasta cree necesario no conservar á su aleación su mismo nombre, llamándole *lúminum*, como el hierro modificado pierde su nombre de tal para llamarse acero. Según un periódico industrial, el *lúminum* es de un blanco brillante, sin el tinte azulado que hace desmerecer la apariencia del aluminio. Es completamente inoxidable, y después de muchos meses conserva su brillo. Sometido el *lúminum* á pruebas periciales, ha resultado que la elasticidad, antes de la ruptura, es tres veces mayor que la del acero á igual superficie de sección y que á volumen igual la resistencia á la flexión y á la tracción es la del hierro forjado.

“De modo que como su peso es de un tercio del peso del hierro se puede dar espesor á las paredes de los tubos. Hasta ahora parece que el nuevo metal sólo se ha dado á conocer en la fabricación de bicicletas, las cuales, construídas con *lúminum* en todas las partes que es posible, resultan fuertes para emplearse aun por personas que pesan 200 libras, mientras que las máquinas, completas en todas sus partes, sólo pesan de 6 á 7 kilogramos las de carreras y de 9 á 10 kilogramos las de carreteras. Á todo esto el *lúminum* es un metal ligero, pues el 96 por ciento consiste de aluminio y los demás metales que lo modifican sólo representan en él 4 por ciento.”

#### LA PRIMERA CASA DE ALUMINIO.

El BOLETÍN MENSUAL reproduce el artículo que se leerá á continuación publicado en “El Boletín de la Sociedad Nacional de Minería,” de Santiago de Chile, en su edición de 30 de abril:

“Se está construyendo actualmente la primera casa de aluminio en la ciudad de Chicago. El frente de esta casa, que se encuentra en una de las principales calles de la población, será especialmente interesante porque irá recubierto todo por planchas pulidas de aluminio de medio centímetro de grueso.

“El edificio completo, que es todo de material incombustible, va sostenido por un esqueleto de columnas de hierro. Entre estas columnas van colocadas las planchas de aluminio de 50 por 80 centímetros, sostenidas por resfuerzos ó costillares, también de aluminio, de 15 centímetros de ancho.

“El metal usado es compuesto de 20 partes de cobre y 10 de aluminio, habiéndose elegido esta aleación por cuanto el metal que así se obtiene posee un coeficiente de dilación muy pequeño.

“El edificio tendrá 64 metros de altura, ocupados por 17 pisos que se hacen notar por las grandes ventanas que tendrán algunos departamentos. Habrá ventanas con 6.60 metros de anchura.

“Con interés y curiosidad se espera ver concluida esta casa, para verla destacarse con su frente bien brillante y metálico entre las demás hechas de piedra y ladrillo.”

## EL ALUMINIO COMO CONDUCTOR PARA LA ELECTRICIDAD.

De "El Boletín de la Sociedad Nacional de Minería," de Santiago de Chile, ya citado, se ha tomado el siguiente artículo:

"La fabricación del aluminio ha hecho en los últimos años progresos notables, que han permitido la baja de su precio hasta el punto que hoy día puede hacer competencia al cobre en el uso tan extendido de este metal para conductores eléctricos.

"Vamos á examinar someramente la importancia que, por ahora, puede tener esta competencia.

"El aluminio, que en 1855 se cotizaba á 1,000 marcos el kilogramo, ha llegado á abarataarse hasta el punto que en 1897 se cotizaba solamente á 2.5 marcos, ó sean más ó menos £125 esterlinas por tonelada. Por otra parte, el alza tan notable del precio del cobre, que hoy se cotiza á £77 esterlinas la tonelada, permite la competencia ventajosa del aluminio en las instalaciones eléctricas.

"En efecto, si bien el aluminio no conduce la electricidad con la facilidad que lo hace el cobre, en cambio su poco peso específico permite tomar conductores de mayor sección sin que alcancen á tener el peso ni el precio de los de cobre.

"En el cuadro siguiente damos el precio, por tonelada, de cada uno de los metales, la resistencia específica para la electricidad y sus pesos específicos:

Metal.	Peso específico.	Resistencia.	Precio por tonelada.
Cobre.....	8.85	1.00	£77
Aluminio.....	2.56	1.72	125

"Según estos datos veamos en qué forma tendríamos que reemplazar un conductor de cobre de un centímetro cuadrado de sección, por ejemplo, por el aluminio. Siendo la resistencia del aluminio 1.7 mayor que la del cobre, tendríamos que un conductor de aluminio necesitaría tener una sección de 1.7 centímetros cuadrados para conducir la electricidad con la misma facilidad que un conductor de 1 centímetro cuadrado de cobre. El metro corrido de estos dos conductores pesaría 885 gramos para el cobre, y solamente 440 gramos para el aluminio, y los precios de ambos serían de 16.35 peniques para el cobre, y 13.20 peniques para el aluminio. Se tienen, pues, para dos conductores de igual resistencia ó conductibilidad para la electricidad, uno hecho de cobre y otro de aluminio, los datos siguientes por metro corrido:

Metal.	Sección en centímetros cuadrados.	Volumen en centímetros cuadrados.	Peso en gramos.	Precio en peniques.
Cobre.....	1.00	100	885	16.35
Aluminio.....	1.70	170	440	13.20

“Vemos, pues, que un conductor de aluminio sería 8 por ciento más económico en el precio de costo, y como es también 49.71 por ciento más liviano que su equivalente de cobre, nacería de ahí aun mayor economía en la instalación, trasportes, etc.; es decir, que manteniéndose el precio actual del cobre, tendrán los fabricantes de instalaciones eléctricas que preferir el uso del aluminio.

“En efecto, hoy día se hace ya un vasto empleo de aluminio en instalaciones eléctricas, pero la producción de aluminio es aun demasiado reducida para que pueda entrar á hacer competencia al cobre de una manera sensible, pues en el año 1897 la producción total de aluminio alcanzó á 3,414 toneladas, contra 396,728 toneladas de cobre; es decir, menos de 1 por ciento.

“Verdad que la producción de aluminio está tomando cada día más vuelo, y esta aplicación á la electricidad la hará desarrollarse aun más; pero esto no puede suceder en tiempo muy próximo, por cuanto las instalaciones para su fabricación son costosísimas y no pueden erigirse de un momento á otro, tanto más cuanto que no se podría contar con la seguridad de esta aplicación á la electricidad, por cuanto si el cobre bajase su precio de unas cuantas libras, ya la competencia del aluminio sería imposible.

“Hoy por hoy, pues, juega el aluminio, como competidor del cobre, un papel demasiado insignificante para poder tener una baja en el precio del cobre producido por esa competencia.

“Corriendo los años, sin embargo, es muy posible y aun muy probable que las cosas cambien; el aluminio se fabricará cada día en mayor abundancia y á menor precio, y tendrá poco á poco que tomar la posición que le corresponde por sus excepcionales cualidades que permitirán, con el tiempo, un uso muy extendido en diversos ramos de las industrias. Y cuando el aluminio sea aplicado en grande escala en diversas industrias, cuando se fabriquen unas cien mil toneladas anuales para toda clase de usos, entonces reemplazará probablemente del todo al cobre en las instalaciones eléctricas.”

#### NOTICIAS SOBRE PUERTO RICO.

El 1° de mayo de este año Mr. CHARLES HERBERT ALLEN, ex-Subsecretario de Marina de los Estados Unidos, tomó posesión en San Juan del cargo de Gobernador de Puerto Rico. Antes de esa fecha el gobierno de la isla había sido esencialmente militar. El Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos ha dispuesto que los billetes de pasaje de los Estados Unidos á Puerto Rico y de Puerto Rico á los Estados Unidos queden exentos del derecho de timbre establecido durante la última guerra. Del 1° de enero de este año en adelante queda prohibida la importación bajo fianza, sin pago de derechos, de los siguientes artículos: licores, alambiques, tabaco, rapé, cigarros, cigarrillos, bebidas fermentadas, naipes, harina mezclada, oleomargarina, artículos

de patente, medicinas y vinos en botellas, así como otros productos mencionados en la sección "B" de la ley de 13 de junio de 1898.

### NOTAS MISCELÁNEAS.

Según noticias de Bremen, Alemania, han pasado por aquel puerto durante los tres primeros meses del año actual 24,637 emigrantes con destino á los Estados Unidos. Ya en los mismos meses de 1899 habían salido de Bremen para los Estados Unidos 14,367 emigrantes de varias nacionalidades. Según las estadísticas alemanas para el año 1899, de 23,740 personas que emigraron de aquel país, 19,016 salieron con destino á los Estados Unidos. Para el Brasil salieron 1,089 emigrantes, contra 629 el año anterior.

Se dice que en el mes de abril del corriente año se han exportado de Chicago á las islas Hawai automóviles por valor de \$50,000. Según el fabricante, los vehículos se componían de coches grandes y pequeños, carros de distribución y carruajes de recreo.

Según datos dados á la luz por el Departamento de Correos, ha habido un aumento de \$2,759,415 en las ventas de sellos, tarjetas postales, etc., durante los meses de enero, febrero y marzo, comparados con los mismos meses del año anterior.

En Palatka, Florida, se ha formado una compañía para la extracción del ácido tánico de la palma llamada areca, que tanto abunda por aquellas regiones. El capital de la compañía es de \$50,000 y empezará sus trabajos el 1° de mayo de 1900.

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## GUATEMALA.

### COSECHAS EN 1898.

Del informe de la Dirección General de Estadística correspondiente á 1899, se han tomado los siguientes datos referentes á la agricultura en aquella República:

*Café.*—Del 1° de enero al 31 de diciembre del año de 1898, se cosecharon 270,807 quintales, 49 libras de café en oro, y 362,290 quintales, 80 libras en pergamino, producidos por 67,808,671 árboles, sembrados en una extensión de 1,438 caballerías y 10 manzanas. Como se ve, el número de árboles y la cantidad de quintales cosechados corresponden á una libra por árbol, poco más ó menos.

*Caña de azúcar.*—Del 1° de enero al 31 de diciembre de 1898, se elaboraron 113,569 quintales de azúcar, 141,620 cargas de panela de 64 atados, 539,737 arrobas de miel, y 34,829 quintales de mascabado, como cosecha obtenida de una extensión de terreno sembrada de caña de 364 caballerías y 16 manzanas.

*Trigo*.—Durante el año de 1898, se cosecharon 36,024 fanegas, una caja, en una extensión de terreno cultivado de 242 caballerías y 28 manzanas.

*Avena*.—Del 1° de enero al 31 de diciembre del año 1898, se obtuvo una cosecha de 3,278 fanegas de avena, en una extensión de terreno cultivado de 8 caballerías, 5 manzanas.

*Cebada*.—Durante el período del año de 1898, fueron cosechadas 2,634 fanegas de cebada, una caja, en una extensión de terreno de 6 caballerías, 46 manzanas.

*Patatas*.—Del 1° de enero al 31 de diciembre del año de 1898, se cosecharon 11,558 quintales, 63 libras de patatas, en una extensión de terreno cultivado de 20 caballerías, 33 manzanas.

*Arroz*.—Este artículo, tan necesario á la subsistencia, no se había tomado en consideración en la estadística sino hasta el año de 1898, en que se obtuvo una cosecha de 3,711 quintales, 75 libras, en una extensión de terreno cultivado de 5 caballerías, 57 manzanas,

*Maíz*.—Del 1° de enero al 31 de diciembre de 1898, se cosecharon 860,167 fanegas de maíz, en una extensión de terreno cultivado de 1,979 caballerías, 2 manzanas.

*Frijol*.—Durante el período del año de 1898 fué cultivada con frijol una extensión de 138 caballerías, 43 manzanas, de las que se obtuvo una cosecha de 29,308 fanegas, una caja.

*Cacao*.—La extensión superficial cultivada con este importante fruto de exportación, durante el año de 1898, fué de 67 caballerías, 22 manzanas, conteniendo 1,251,829 árboles, los cuales produjeron una cosecha de 1,871 quintales, 84 libras.

*Bananas*.—Del 1° de enero al 31 de diciembre de 1898, se cultivaron con dicha planta 166 caballerías, 63 manzanas de terreno, obteniéndose una cosecha de 910,501 racimos.

*Potreros*.—Hasta el 31 de diciembre del año 1898, había en la República una extensión de terreno sembrado de pastos de 8,560 caballerías, 46 manzanas.

*Ganado*.—El conocimiento de este importante ramo de la riqueza nacional es otra mejora introducida á la estadística en el año 1898, en el cual se obtuvieron los datos siguientes: ganado vacuno existente en la República, 196,768; caballar, 50,343; lanar, 77,593; de cerda, 29,784, aproximadamente.

*Tabaco*.—Del 1° de enero al 31 de diciembre del año de 1898, se cosecharon 9,341 quintales, 21 libras, en una extensión de terreno cultivado de 15 caballerías, 46 manzanas. El número de plantas sembradas fué de 14,102,082, de las cuales fueron cosechadas únicamente 10,791,305. De los departamentos de Chimaltenango é Izabal no se recibió ningún dato sobre este ramo.

*Fincas*.—El número de fincas existentes en la República es de 25,596, las cuales tienen una superficie inculta total de 28,650 caballerías 32 manzanas.

## MÉXICO.

## MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE.

Al abrirse el cuarto período de sesiones del 19° Congreso de la Unión, el 1° de abril del año corriente, el Presidente Díaz leyó un interesante mensaje, del cual se han tomado los siguientes párrafos:

“Me cabe la honra de presentarme ante el Congreso de la Unión para rendir el informe prevenido en su artículo 63 por la Constitución de la República.

“En lo que mira á nuestras relaciones exteriores, que continúan sin alteración alguna desfavorable, sólo tengo que informaros de incidentes que contribuyen á estrecharlas.

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## CONFERENCIA INTERNACIONAL AMERICANA.

“La oficina establecida en Wáshington por las Repúblicas de América ha indicado la conveniencia de que éstas celebren en la capital de una de ellas, que no sea dicha ciudad, otra conferencia. Con ese motivo, el Secretario de Estado en Wáshington, en una conversación con nuestro Embajador, mostró el deseo de que el punto de reunión sea esta capital. Se ha manifestado por nuestra parte que México no tendrá inconveniente alguno, sino positiva satisfacción, en recibir aquí á los delegados del continente americano, si así lo desean los Gobiernos respectivos.

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## INSTRUCCIÓN PÚBLICA.

“Sesenta mil quinientos alumnos inscritos en al último año escolar en las escuelas primarias y superiores del distrito y territorio, y 6,168 inscritos en la preparatoria y escuelas profesionales responden de que la enseñanza oficial es empeñosamente solicitada, y de que los esfuerzos del Ejecutivo por mejorarla y difundirla en todos sus grados, en las diversas aplicaciones de la ciencia y el arte, son correspondidos con creces, lo que alienta lisonjeras esperanzas en el porvenir intelectual de nuestro país.

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## FOMENTO.

“Si las condiciones topográficas del suelo de la República no permiten que los ríos, aun los de largo curso, sean sino en parte navegables, en cambio su pendiente, que en algunos casos es considerable, está

facilitando el aprovechamiento de sus aguas no solamente en riegos, sino como fuerza motriz.

“En el período á que se refiere este informe y al amparo de la nueva legislación se han otorgado diez concesiones para el aprovechamiento de las aguas federales en varios estados, habiéndose hecho también algunas confirmaciones de derechos al uso de las mismas.

“De las concesiones anteriormente otorgadas y que están en vía de realización merecen citarse por su importancia las obras que se ejecutan en el distrito de Atlixco del estado de Puebla, para el establecimiento de una gran fábrica de hilados y tejidos, habiéndose terminado ya una presa en el río y un canal de 3,700 metros de longitud, para producir una caída de 150 metros de altura. La empresa de San Ildefonso ha concluido ya dos instalaciones hidroeléctricas en el río de Monte Alto y está para terminar una tercera en el mismo río. En el de Tlalnepantla ha concluido otra, teniendo dos casi terminadas. Otra empresa ha ultimado en el río de la Magdalena, del Distrito Federal, las obras necesarias para producir una caída de 270 metros de altura. La empresa del río de Necaxa ha hecho también importantes trabajos preparatorios, como adquisición de terrenos, construcción de edificios, apertura de un camino de 4,200 metros de longitud, construcción de un canal de derivación y de un túnel de 365 metros de largo.

“Entre las empresas que han obtenido concesiones para aprovechar aguas en riegos merece citarse la del río de San Diego, en Coahuila, que ha terminado un canal principal de 17 kilómetros y otros secundarios con una longitud total de 35 kilómetros. Se ha construido un túnel de 2,050 metros de longitud, y se ha establecido un sifón de hierro de 1,120 metros de largo y metro y medio de diámetro. Con estas obras se regará una superficie de 10,000 hectáreas.

“La explotación de las minas en la República estuvo por largo tiempo consagrada á los metales llamados preciosos, la plata principalmente y el oro. En la actualidad hay muchas empresas de gran importancia que se dedican á la explotación de otros metales. El cobre se va descubriendo en nuevas regiones y aumenta su explotación, así como la del plomo. El antimonio se beneficia recientemente y el hierro fija ya la atención de los capitalistas, para hacerlo objeto de más activa explotación, notándose también aumento en la extracción del mercurio, el azufre, el carbón de piedra, los onix, los mármoles y los ópalos.

“El número de títulos de propiedades mineras expedido en el período á que se refiere este informe llegó á 1,303, amparando 13,973 pertenencias de una hectárea. No obstante la caducidad en que han incurrido muchos concesionarios, había, al finalizar el año natural último, 9,594 propiedades mineras, con 91,591 pertenencias de una hectárea que pagan el impuesto minero.

“El Instituto Geológico terminó, entre otros trabajos que se exhibirán en la Exposición de París y que han de contribuir mucho al

desarrollo de la industria minera, el corte geológico entre Acapulco y Veracruz, abrazando las operaciones topográficas, la extensión superficial de 1,250 kilómetros cuadrados. Los estudios geológicos se extendieron á 2,880.

“Durante el mismo período se han reducido á propiedad particular 241,000 hectáreas de terrenos del dominio nacional, por adjudicaciones en virtud de denuncia por ventas á particulares y á colonos, por cesiones gratuitas á labradores pobres y por fraccionamiento y reparto de egidos.

“En el ramo de colonización hay que mencionar la entrada en la República de 380 colonos de nacionalidad rusa, los cuales se han establecido por ahora en terrenos de propiedad particular, en el estado de Chiapas, habiéndoles otorgado el Gobierno las franquicias de la ley mediante la respectiva concesión, así como una extensión de terrenos nacionales en el mismo estado. Es probable que allí se establezcan nuevas familias de esa nacionalidad.

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#### OBRAS PÚBLICAS.

“En el puerto de Veracruz el rompe-olas del Nordeste y los malecones I, II y III, que se hallaban en construcción en el mes de setiembre último, han progresado notablemente. Igual adelanto se observa en el dragado que se ejecuta para obtener 9 metros de profundidad en maréa media.

“La superficie de terraplén, formada detrás de los malecones durante el período que comprende el presente informe, es de 65,000 metros cuadrados.

“Poco falta en Tampico para terminar el edificio aduanal, y se trabaja en la construcción de los cimientos para la planta eléctrica. Se ha celebrado contrato para la reconstrucción del muelle fiscal.

“En Coatzacoalcos y Salina Cruz, puertos extremos del Ferrocarril Nacional de Tehuantepec, los contratistas de las obras han comenzado á ejecutar sus trabajos preparatorios. Han sido aprobados los proyectos para el establecimiento de los edificios que servirán en Coatzacoalcos para oficinas y habitaciones de los empleados de dichas obras.

“Se terminó la obra de defensa de la ‘Atalaya’ del Carmen, situada en la punta norte de la isla.

“En el puerto de Mazatlán se prosigue con actividad la construcción del muro de las ‘Olas Altas’ y de los enrocamientos de la base; haciéndose al mismo tiempo el relleno interior para formar las calles.

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#### DESAGÜE DEL VALLE DE MÉXICO.

“Fueron inauguradas, con la solemnidad que el hecho merecía, las obras del desagüe del Valle de México. La situación y demás condiciones de esta cuenca, una vez que en su fondo quedó definitivamente



establecida la metrópoli mexicana, preocuparon y con justicia á todos sus gobernantes, deseosos de conjurar los peligros de nuevas inundaciones y de expeler los desechos urbanos lejos del gran valle, cuyas cordilleras parecían empeñarse en conservarlos. Diversos proyectos, como el de ENRICO MARTÍNEZ, dignos de eternizar la memoria de sus autores, fueron motivo, desde tiempos remotos, para emprender obras de positiva magnitud. Todos, sin embargo, fracasaron, tal vez más que por su deficiencia técnica, por la poca estabilidad y escasos recursos de los gobiernos que las emprendían. El actual Ejecutivo, desde hace catorce años, pudo auxiliar eficazmente al Ayuntamiento de la Capital; y, merced al concurso de una junta especial, inspirada por los mejores y más desinteresados sentimientos, y al de hábiles y caballerosos contratistas é inteligentes empleados, ha dado cima al ideal de tres siglos, salvando á nuestra capital de que la inunden sus próximos lagos, y de que la infesten, por falta de salida, sus propios desechos.

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#### FERROCARRILES.

“De setiembre á la fecha han aumentado en 345 kilómetros las vías férreas de la República, siendo las empresas que más han contribuido á este aumento: la de Chihuahua al Pacífico, con 141 kilómetros; la del Ferrocarril Internacional, con 60 kilómetros; con 27, la de Xico y San Rafael; con 48, la del Central en sus líneas de Yurécuaro á Ario, y de la Vega á San Marcos; con 22, la del Mineral de Chihuahua; perteneciendo el resto á las demás empresas ferroviarias. Tienen en conjunto hoy todas 13,714 kilómetros, incluyendo en este número 193 kilómetros de ramales particulares que conectan con las líneas federales, y 432 que pertenecen á los tranvías de los estados. En el mes de febrero último fueron inaugurados los tranvías eléctricos entre México y Tacubaya, y México y Guadalupe. Entre las obras de arte notables ya construidas, se cuenta el puente sobre el río Mexcala, que pertenece al Ferrocarril de México, Cuernavaca y Pacífico.

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#### TELÉGRAFOS.

“En cuanto al ramo de telégrafos, me es satisfactorio informar que el movimiento de correspondencia crece constantemente en las líneas; habiendo habido un aumento, sólo en los mensajes del público, calculado en más de un 13 por ciento de setiembre á la fecha. Para aprovechar los medios que aconseja la ciencia moderna y ampliar la capacidad de la red, se ha establecido el sistema de transmisión telegráfico-telefónica simultánea por unos mismos hilos entre Puebla y Atlixco.

“Dos cables sub-fluviales de tres conductores han sido tendidos, uno en el río Papaloapam entre Tuxtepec y Cosamaloapam, y otro en el de Champotón entre este punto y Campeche. Los estados de Sinaloa y Durango han cedido á la Federación la línea de Elota á San Ignacio y

San Dimas, que ambos poseían. La red telgráfica ha tenido un aumento de 587 kilómetros.

#### HACIENDA PÚBLICA.

“En cuanto al ramo de Hacienda, el Ejecutivo tiene particular satisfacción en manifestaros que los recursos del Erario Federal siguen desarrollándose rápidamente, y que continúa siendo bonancible la marcha de todos los servicios dependientes del mismo departamento.

“Durante el primer semestre del presente año fiscal, los ingresos alcanzaron la cifra de \$31,000,000 superior en más de \$2,500,000 á la recaudación de igual período en el ejercicio de 1898 á 1899. Este resultado sobrepaja considerablemente las estimaciones del Ejecutivo respecto del aumento de las rentas públicas. Y es tanto más notable y lisonjera esa prueba de las energías crecientes del país, cuanto que ha venido produciéndose en un período relativamente largo, sin que se advierta retroceso ni vacilación en la prosperidad de todos los ramos de la actividad nacional.

“Como siempre, las aduanas y el timbre han sido las principales fuentes de aumento en la recaudación. El valor de las importaciones extranjeras llegó, en el semestre, á cincuenta y nueve millones de pesos, y los derechos por ellas recaudados ascendieron á trece y tres cuartos millones—suma que excede en cerca de millón y medio á la que representan los productos de igual período del año próximo pasado. Si bien disminuyó en muy pequeña escala la exportación de artículos nacionales, por haberse retenido en el país mayor cantidad de plata amonedada, proporcionó sin embargo al fisco, por los derechos que causan los pocos productos cuya exportación está gravada, un ingreso algo mayor que el obtenido en el período precedente. Por último, los derechos que se recaudan mediante estampillas y que forman parte de la renta del timbre acusan también un aumento de un millón de pesos en el período de que se trata.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### PROSPERIDAD NACIONAL.

“En lo concerniente á mejoras administrativas y al estado general del país, no habido grandes novedades que reseñar en este informe, porque felizmente no son cosa nueva el progresivo y constante desarrollo de la riqueza pública y la consiguiente prosperidad de la nación. Más, en lo relativo á las mejoras materiales ya conquistadas, se destaca en primer término la obra colosal, aspiración de varios siglos, destinada al drenaje y gobierno de las aguas de este valle, donde se asienta la capital de la República. Por lo demás, la conservación de la paz y el orden, que aun puede realizar otras maravillas, y el gradual perfeccionamiento de la administración en sus diferentes ramos, son hechos que á nadie pueden ocultarse y que todo mexicano debe celebrar reconociendo la parte que en ellos han tenido el buen juicio y proceder patriótico de sus dignos representantes.”

## TRANVÍAS ELÉCTRICOS—OBRAS IMPORTANTES EN EL PUERTO DE VERACRUZ.

Del "Public Ledger," de Filadelfia, tomamos lo siguiente:

"Casi todo el material y maquinaria para la instalación de los nuevos tranvías en la ciudad de México y sus alrededores han sido importados de los Estados Unidos. Las antiguas líneas urbanas, movidas por fuerza animal, serán transformadas en troles, sistema eléctrico muy empleado en los Estados Unidos y Europa. La transformación de la fuerza motriz se verificará primero en las líneas suburbanas, y más tarde en las de la misma población de México. Las líneas de Tacubaya y Guadalupe están ya terminadas.

"Sir WEETMAN PEARSON, el contratista inglés de las obras del puerto de Veracruz, asegura que ya los trabajos á su cargo están próximos á terminarse. Los rompeolas para subyugar el fuerte oleaja están ya sirviendo su objeto, y dentro de unos seis meses se podrá utilizar el nuevo muelle que actualmente se halla en construcción, á los costados del cual podrán atracar barcos de más de 30 pies de calado. Á dicho muelle podrán acercarse los trenes del ferrocarril con objeto de tomar la carga directamente del barco.

"Sir WEETMAN asegura que el puerto artificial de Veracruz será uno de los mejores del continente americano. Los buques que ya conozcan el puerto podrán entrar y salir del mismo aún durante los nortes más violentos."

### MOVIMIENTO FERROCARRILERO.

"El Sol," de Guadalajara, ha publicado el artículo que se verá á continuación, y que ha sido reproducido por "La Semana Mercantil," de México, en su número del 2 de abril de 1900:

"Día á día se acentúa más en Jalisco el movimiento ferrocarrilero, lo cual implica para el estado un notable mejoramiento futuro en sus operaciones comerciales.

"La construcción de la vía herrada á Zapotlán hará entrar á una de las zonas más ricas del estado en un período de vida que hasta el presente sólo ha sido imaginado. No muy tarde el ferrocarril que actualmente se construye para Zapotlán se llevará hacia el vecino estado de Colima, hasta tocar uno de los puertos del sur, recorriendo esa vía las comarcas más feraces y ricas de esta región de la República, abriendo un activo comercio con los puertos de las costas del mar Pacífico, hasta allende los pueblos del Asia.

"Más adelante nos ocuparemos con detalle de lo que hasta ahora se ha hecho en la vía herrada á Zapotlán, y frecuentemente trataremos de cuanto se relacione con el asunto de la construcción de esa vía, que ha de unir á Guadalajara con el Pacífico, porque sin duda alguna esa vía herrada traerá un grande impulso para el adelanto de Jalisco.

"Con las vías que actualmente se tienen en construcción, contaremos

en día no lejano aquella que, partiendo de Durango y pasando por otros estados fronterizos, penetrará en Jalisco para internarse en la rica zona minera de Sinaloa.

“La construcción de algunas vías se proyecta para no lejano tiempo; y entre ellas haremos particular mención del ferrocarril á Chapala, importante obra para la realización de la cual M. LIBRELLI, ingeniero francés, hace activas gestiones contanto con el apoyo de una compañía de capitalistas Mexicanos. La vía proyectada partirá de Atequiza, seguirá por terrenos del cantón 3° hasta tocar las riberas del hermoso lago.

“Todas estas vias proyectadas serán conducidas á la práctica; y en nuestro estado el movimiento comercial ganará notablemente con el movimiento ferroviario que ahora se inicia.”

#### UNA ZONA MINERA IMPORTANTE.

De “La Semana Mercantil,” de México, ha tomado el BOLETÍN MENSUAL el artículo que á continuación se reproduce:

“La minería ha tomado últimamente un gran desarrollo, no solo por las exploraciones y denuncios que se hacen en diferentes puntos del país, sino por el impulso que se comunica á negociaciones ya probadas, pero de marchar lenta por falta de recursos.

“En este caso se encuentra la zona minera de Zacualpam, en el estado de México, famosa desde hace tiempo por su riqueza metalúrgica y con especialidad las labores de ‘El Alacrán’ y ‘Socavón de San Fernando’ que se hallan ubicadas en esa región.

“Hemos tenido oportunidad últimamente de observar las muestras extraídas de la mina ya citada, y de conocer su alta ley. Hemos sabido también que la mina está próxima á pasar á las manos de una fuerte compañía inglesa, la cual, contando con el capital suficiente, dará á los trabajos toda la amplitud y el desarrollo que se necesitan para que sean positivamente remuneradores, en la extensión de que son susceptibles, los productos de esa mina. Lo único de que carece es de fácil comunicación con nuestra red ferroviaria, porque el distrito de Zacualpam está aislado, y esto quizá haya contribuido á que las exploraciones y nuevas empresas se hayan dirigido con preferencia á otros puntos; pero no nos parece aventurado asegurar que cuando se exploten como merecen y pueden serlo las minas argentíferas de Zacualpam, el ferrocarril se hará casi sin esfuerzo alguno, para dar salida á los metales del rumbo, que como ya hemos dicho, son en extremo abundantes.

“Los negocios mineros, ya por de sí extensos entre nosotros, tienen que ir aumentando considerablemente con la inversión del capital extranjero, como ya se ha visto en muchas ocasiones; y si el negocio de que hablamos se efectúa, ó sea la adquisición del ‘Alacrán’ y ‘Socavón de San Fernando’ por la compañía inglesa, recibiría un poderoso empuje el laborío y dará espléndidos frutos, porque, como ya dijimos, está demostrada su riqueza.

“Así ha sucedido en Inguarán, Hidalgo del Parral, Guanaceví, Durango y otros puntos donde la minería está en auge, y hay fuertes inversiones extranjeras; así sucederá también en Zacualpam, zona que, por otra parte, ya tiene asegurada su reputación.

“Las inversiones extranjeras por una parte; por otra las leyes que rigen en la minería, tan hábiles como previsoras; además, el establecimiento de núcleos de contratación, como la Cámara Minera de Chihuahua, que se inaugurará el 15 del actual; y sobre todo la confianza que ha sucedido á los antiguos temores y vacilaciones producidos por crisis y conmociones no motivadas, todo esto debe ser el fundamento de la nueva época minera que se abre para México.”

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## PERÚ.

### EL JARABE DE CAÑA.

Dice “El Economista,” de Lima, en su número 237, que el jarabe de caña es artículo de mucho consumo en el Perú, y que se exporta en grandes cantidades. Asegura que es una industria muy lucrativa. Cita como autoridad en la materia al Dr. STOCKBRIDGE, quien dice que el primer paso en la fabricación del jarabe consiste en la extracción del jugo de la caña, y que la manera como esto se hace constituye la clave de todo el procedimiento, pues que si bien es posible utilizar para el caso un aparato cualquiera, la economía exige el empleo de un trapiche de primera clase. El segundo paso de la operación consiste en separar del jugo todas las sustancias extrañas. Después sigue el procedimiento de la clarificación, y luego el de la evaporación, que es uno de los más importantes y que mayor habilidad requieren. Una vez preparado el jarabe hay que envasarlo de modo que no se fermente, cosa que no es difícil evitar si la preparación se ha hecho como se debe. Termina el artículo de “El Economista” recomendando que los receptáculos en que se guarde el jarabe sean cerrados herméticamente antes de que aquél se enfríe.

### LA ELECTRICIDAD EN LA FABRICACIÓN DE AZÚCAR.

Al tratar de este interesante asunto “El Economista,” de Lima, en su número de 7 de abril de este año, dice que la corriente eléctrica produce fuerza, luz, calor y efectos químicos, partes todas necesarias para la fabricación del azúcar. Un alambre puede fácilmente pasar por el eje de una llave y transmitir á enorme distancia cientos de caballos de fuerza. Una hebra de caña carbonizada produce una luz. Un horno eléctrico produce un calor más vivo que el carbón. La acción eléctrica separa las composiciones químicas más ligadas que se le presenten y forma otras nuevas. Nada de extraño tendría en que se viera en tiempo no lejano á la electricidad formando parte impor-

tantísima en la fabricación del azúcar; se han hecho ya muchos experimentos, pero todos han resultado hasta ahora muy defectuosos. Agrega el citado periódico que se ha descubierto que la sosa cáustica se produce muy económicamente haciendo pasar una corriente eléctrica por una solución de sal, y que como está demostrado que el bagazo de la caña es una materia prima valiosa para fabricar papel, y como la sosa cáustica se usa para preparar la fibra, parece que la corriente eléctrica está llamada á tener una aplicación muy útil.

Sabido es que la sal es un artículo muy barato, y la fibra ó hebra que se extrae del bagazo es producto de tan poco valor, que casi puede decirse que se usa como combustible por hacerle desaparecer. Estando provistas las fábricas de azúcar de dinamos para diferentes usos, puede utilizarse produciendo la sosa cáustica y salir ya preparado del mismo lugar la pasta para hacer papel. Otra aplicación muy importante para la corriente eléctrica, en la fabricación del azúcar, consiste en clarificar el guarapo y las mieles. Para ese objeto se asegura que cinco fábricas en los Estados Unidos harán las instalaciones necesarias.

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## VENEZUELA.

### NUEVA LEY DE PATENTES.

La “Gaceta Oficial” correspondiente al 20 de marzo próximo pasado, publica el decreto que á continuación se leerá, en el cual se establecen las formalidades que han de observarse en la solicitud de patentes:

ART. 1º. Todo aquel que haya inventado ó descubierto algún arte nuevo y útil, máquina, manufactura ó composición de materia, ó alguna nueva y útil mejora de esos objetos, puede obtener una patente, mediante el pago de la contribución que fija este decreto y conforme á los demás trámites en él establecidos; siempre que la invención, descubrimiento ó mejora industrial no sean ya conocidos ó usados por otros en este país ó hayan sido patentados ó descritos en publicación impresa en la República ó en el extranjero, ó que hayan estado en uso público ó de venta por más de dos años anteriores á la solicitud, á no ser que se pruebe que han sido abandonados.

ART. 2º. Las patentes serán expedidas por el Ejecutivo nacional, en nombre de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela, y refrendadas por el Ministro de Fomento.

ART. 3º. El Gobierno no garantiza la exactitud, ni la utilidad, ni la prioridad de la invención ó descubrimientos patentados.

ART. 4º. Todo aquél que pretenda obtener una patente deberá acompañar á su solicitud una descripción de la invención ó descubrimiento, máquina, manufactura, composición ó mejora de que se trate, indicando correctamente su naturaleza y objeto. También presentará los dibujos ó muestras correspondientes y los demás documentos ó justificativos que llenen las disposiciones del artículo 1º de este decreto.

ART. 5°. La solicitud de las patentes asegurará bajo juramento que el solicitante es realmente inventor ó descubridor del arte, máquina, manufactura, composición ó mejora para que la solicita, y toda controversia á que diere lugar la inexactitud de esta seguridad, se ventilará en juicio ordinario por los interesados ante los tribunales nacionales.

ART. 6°. Las patentes se expedirán por cinco, diez ó quince años, y caducan á los seis meses, al año y á los dos años de su expedición, respectivamente, si dentro de estos lapsos de tiempo no se hubiere puesto en práctica en el territorio de Venezuela la invención ó descubrimiento para que se obtuvieron.

SEC. ÚNICA. La patente expresará el término dentro del cual caduco, y el de su duración se contará desde el día en que se haya expedido dicha patente.

ART. 7°. Las solicitudes de patentes se dirigirán al Ejecutivo nacional por órgano del Ministerio de Fomento.

ART. 8°. Llenos los requisitos establecidos por esta decreto, se expedirá al solicitante una patente que le autorice para poner en práctica su invención, descubrimiento ó mejora en el territorio de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela. Esta patente la expedirá el Ejecutivo nacional por órgano del Ministerio de Fomento, según el formulario que va al pie de este artículo, y deberá contener un breve título ó descripción de la invención ó descubrimiento, que indique exactamente su naturaleza y objeto, y una concesión al patentado, sus herederos ó cesionarios, del derecho exclusivo de fabricar, usar y vender la invención ó descubrimiento:

“El Presidente de la República, por cuanto N. N. ha ocurrido al Ejecutivo nacional solicitando patente para el ejercicio de (aquí la industria), habiendo llenado los requisitos establecidos por la ley de la materia de (la fecha de la ley).

“Por tanto, de conformidad con el artículo 8° de la citada ley y en nombre de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela, le expido la presente patente para el ejercicio exclusivo de la industria arriba descrita, por el término de \* \* \* años, en beneficio suyo ó de sus herederos ó cesionarios, sin que el Ejecutivo nacional garantice la utilidad, ni la exactitud, ni la prioridad del descubrimiento ó invención patentadas.

“Esta patente caducará á los \* \* \* , contados desde esta fecha, si en este lapso de tiempo no se pusiere en práctica en el territorio de Venezuela la industria á que se refiere.

“Firmada, sellada y refrendada en el Palacio Federal de Caracas, á, etc. \* \* \*

ART. 9°. Las patentes están sujetas al pago de una contribución de doscientos cincuenta bolívares (B250) anuales si se trata de una invención ó descubrimiento, y de doscientos bolívares (B200) anuales si se trata de procedimientos mejorados. Esta contribución se pagará en la Tesorería nacional.

ART. 10°. Todo el que ocurra al Ministerio de Fomento solicitando patente, de conformidad con el artículo 7°, deberá acompañar á su solicitud el comprobante de haber satisfecho en la Tesorería nacional la contribución correspondiente á la mitad del número de años por el cual pide la patente.

Si la patente solicitada no pudiese ser concedida por no haberse llenado todas las prescripciones de este decreto, el solicitante perderá la suma consignada, que será destinada á la instrucción pública.

Si la patente fuere concedida, el solicitante, antes de recibir ésta, consignará en el Ministerio de Fomento el recibo de la Tesorería nacional, en que conste que ha pagado la segunda mitad del número de años por el cual la pide.

ART. 11°. El que haya obtenido una patente puede expresar esta circunstancia en sus anúncios y en su marca de fábrica; sin que esto constituya una garantía por parte del Gobierno en cuanto á la calidad del producto, ni á la prioridad de la invención ó descubrimiento; ni tenga valor alguno en perjuicio de mejor derecho de tercero.

ART. 12°. El que haya obtenido patente en país extranjero para una invención ó descubrimiento puede obtenerla en Venezuela, siempre que otro no la hubiere ya obtenido.

SEC. ÚNICA. En este caso la patente se expedirá sólo por el término que le falte para expirar á la obtenida en el otro país.

ART. 13°. Vencido el término de una patente, se publicará en la "Gaceta Oficial" la descripción del descubrimiento ó invención á que aquella se refería; y desde este momento es libre su ejercicio, así como la fabricación ó venta de los productos industriales que la patente garantizaba.

ART. 14°. Igual publicación se hará en el caso de que otorgada una patente, ésta caduque sin haberse puesto en práctica de conformidad con el artículo 6° de este decreto ó cuando se declare nula ó insubsistente antes de vencerse el término de duración ó el de caducidad, excepto el caso 1° del artículo 18°.

ART. 15°. Las descripciones, dibujos y muestras acompañadas á las solicitudes de patentes deben quedar depositadas en el Ministerio de Fomento.

ART. 16°. Recibida que sea por el Ejecutivo Federal una solicitud de patente, dispondrá la publicación de ésta en la Gaceta Oficial, y la patente, caso de concederse, no se expedirá hasta pasados treinta días de dicha publicación.

ART. 17°. Las invenciones, mejoras ó nuevas industrias contrarias á la salud ó seguridad públicas, á las buenas costumbres ó á derechos anteriores no pueden ser patentadas.

SEC. ÚNICA. Tampoco podrán serlo las composiciones farmacéuticas y remedios de cualquiera especie y forma, los cuales quedarán sometidos á las leyes y reglamentos especiales sobre la materia.



ART. 18°. Además de los casos del artículo 6°, las patentes quedan sin efecto cuando por fallo de los Tribunales Federales se las declara expedidas en perjuicio de derechos de tercero y cuando la industria patentada deje de ejercerse en Venezuela por un año consecutivo, salvo caso fortuito ó fuerza mayor, legalmente comprobados.

ART. 19°. Los delitos que se cometan contra la propiedad que garantiza una patente serán juzgados de conformidad con los Códigos respectivos, por los Tribunales Federales.

ART. 20°. Se derogan la ley de 2 de junio de 1882, la Resolución de 17 de mayo de 1890 y todas las demás disposiciones reglamentarias respecto á dicha ley.

ART. 21°. El Ministro de Fomento queda encargado de la ejecución del presente decreto.

Dado, firmado de mi mano, sellado con el sello del Ejecutivo Nacional y refrendado por el Ministro de Fomento en el Palacio Federal, en Caracas, á diez y nueve de marzo de 1900, año 89° de la Independencia y 42° de la Federación.

#### NUEVO MERCADO PARA LAS FRUTAS.

En una de sus recientes ediciones, dice el “New York Commercial,” que mejor informados los comerciantes en frutas de Venezuela con respecto á los Estados Unidos, han visto que hay en éstos un mercado excelente para sus productos. Con este motivo ya han empezado á hacerse grandes plantaciones de frutas y hay en proyecto varias obras para facilitar la transportación de las mismas á los puertos de embarque.

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#### BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

En esta sección del Boletín Mensual se tratará de los libros y folletos enviados á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que se refieren á asuntos relacionados con los países de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

El canje de publicaciones de Centro y Sud América puede efectuarse por conducto de la “Smithsonian Institution,” Wáshington, D. C., por medio de las agencias de distribución que tiene en aquellos países, y que son las siguientes:

Argentina: Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires.

Bolivia: Oficina Nacional de Inmigración, Estadística y Propaganda Geográfica, La Paz.

Chile: Universidad de Chile, Santiago.

Colombia: Biblioteca Nacional, Bogotá.

Costa Rica: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, San José.

El Salvador: Museo Nacional, San Salvador.

Guatemala: Instituto Nacional de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Honduras: Biblioteca Nacional, Tegucigalpa.

México: Todos los envíos gozan de la franquicia del correo.

Nicaragua: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Managua.

Paraguay: Oficina General de Informaciones y Canje y Comisaría General de Inmigración, Asunción.

Perú: Biblioteca Nacional, Lima.

Uruguay: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, Montevideo.

Venezuela: Museo Nacional, Caracas.

Mr. DANIEL MEYER, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Buenos Aires, ha tenido la bondad de enviar á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas un ejemplar de la obra titulada “Gli Italiani nella Repubblica Argentina” (Los Italianos en la República Argentina). Consta la obra de 587 páginas, con hermosas ilustraciones, y fué publicada en 1898 por una comisión compuesta de miembros de la Cámara Italiana de Comercio de Buenos Aires. El trabajo tipográfico, así como la encuadernación, no dejan que desear. El objeto de la publicación es presentar en la exposición de Turín una historia completa del progreso de la colonia italiana en la República Argentina. El libro está dividido en dos partes, una de carácter general y la otra descriptiva. La primera contiene la historia de la inmigración italiana en la República Argentina, así como una descripción geográfica del país. La segunda es una reseña del desarrollo industrial efectuado por los Italianos en la República.

“Tierras Ribereñas del Río Mississippi” es el título de una obra profusamente ilustrada, cuyo autor es Mr. F. H. TOMPKINS. El objeto de la obra es describir las tierras que colindan con el río más grande de la parte norte del hemisferio occidental, las inundaciones que las devastan y los esfuerzos que sus habitantes hacen para protegerse de las destructoras crecientes. La narración que en la obra se hace de los trabajos realizados por los habitantes de dichas tierras para ampararse de las aguas, está escrita de modo tal que puede considerarse como una de las más interesantes que se han escrito, describiendo las luchas del hombre contra las poderosas fuerzas de la naturaleza. Sólo puede compararse á ella la que se ha escrito sobre las luchas de los habitantes de Holanda contra las mareas del Mar del Norte. En dicha obra su autor hace uso de sus vastos conocimientos históricos y científicos.

La “Electrical Review,” en su edición del 7 de marzo de 1900, publica un artículo debido á la pluma de Mr. HAWTHORNE HILL, acerca de la producción de la gutapercha. Le competencia de Mr. HILL en esta materia reviste de gran importancia el mencionado artículo. El cable transpacífico que se proyecta tender entre los Estados Unidos y las Islas

Hawaii, con ramificaciones á la Isla Guam y las Filipinas, requerirá una cantidad considerable de gutapercha, y así es que su construcción depende de la posibilidad de obtener suficiente cantidad de esta materia. Mr. HILL opina que se producirá toda la que se necesite y cita datos estadísticos al efecto. El cable de referencia tendrá 7,500 millas de longitud, necesitándose 400 libras de gutapercha para cada milla, ó sea un total de 1,500 toneladas.

Entre las obras que han llegado últimamente á la biblioteca, meréce mencionarse un trabajo del Sr. Don MANUEL M. DE PERALTA, distinguido diplomático y escritor centroamericano. El libro se titula "Costa Rica y Costa de Mosquitos" y es una colección de documentos que revela que el Sr. de PERALTA se dedicó con asiduidad á coleccionar todas las cédulas y órdenes reales contenidas en el citado volumen, el cual debe mirarse como un trabajo histórico digno de ser leído por cuantos se interesan en el asunto sobre que versa. Los documentos de que se compone la obra del Sr. PERALTA se refieren, en su mayor parte, á la costa de Mosquitos, que fué descubierta por Cristobal Colón en 1502.

Se ha recibido en esta Oficina la Memoria de la Secretaría de Hacienda y Crédito Público de la República de Guatemala, correspondiente al año de 1899. Es un documento bastante extenso que contiene datos muy importantes y que revela que su autor, el Señor Don PEDRO GÁLVEZ PORTOCARRERO, Ministro de Hacienda y Crédito Público de dicha República, ha dedicado especial atención al departamento de su cargo. Asimismo han llegado á esta Oficina las Memorias de Relaciones Exteriores, de la Guerra y de Gobernación y Justicia de Guatemala, que son trabajos interesantes, que muestran los adelantos alcanzados en los ramos sobre que versan.

"La Terre Chaude Mexicaine" es el título de un trabajo publicado periódicamente en "Le Nouveau Monde," cuyo autor es el Barón de MENCHER, Ministro de Bélgica en México. Dicho trabajo versa sobre las exploraciones hechas por su autor en las regiones del sur de la república mexicana. El Barón de MENCHER ha continuado sus viajes de exploración por la parte norte de dicho país, con el objeto de hacer un estudio completo de las condiciones del suelo mexicano y las riquezas que encierra. Estos trabajos científicos del Ministro de Bélgica contribuyen á estrechar las relaciones comerciales entre los dos países.

M. H. HAMET es el autor de unas notas sobre el Sudán francés que ocupan la mayor parte del número de marzo de 1900 del Boletín de la Société des Ingenieurs Civils de France. Dichas notas tratan con bastante extensión del cultivo de la planta de goma elástica en aquel país, demostrando con datos estadísticos el alto puesto que el Sudán

habrá de alcanzar en el mercado de goma. Cita los procedimientos empleados para su extracción y concluye sus reseñas con la descripción del sistema empleado para el tratamiento de la corteza seca de dicha planta con objeto de extraer de ella el caucho.

Con el título de "Cereals" ha empezado á publicarse en la ciudad de Milwaukee, estado de Wisconsin, una revista dedicada á la industria de cereales, industria que á juicio de los editores ha alcanzado proporciones tales en este país que precisa dedicarle un puesto independiente en la prensa periódica de los Estados Unidos. Aunque en dicha revista se tratará en primer lugar de la industria de cereales de los Estados Unidos, se publicará también en ellas todo lo que sobre la materia ocurra de importancia en otros países.

"Leyes Nacionales Sancionadas en el Período Legislativo de 1899" es el título de un importante trabajo que la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas ha recibido de la ciudad de Buenos Aires. Es ésta una publicación anual dirigida por el Señor Don ANDRÉS SUPEÑA, y en el volumen en referencia están contenidas todas las leyes de la República Argentina sancionadas durante el año de 1899. Acompaña al número de cada ley la fecha de su promulgación.

La Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas acaba de recibir de Buenos Aires un interesante volumen que lleva este título: "Estadística de los Ferrocarriles en Explotación" (Tomo VII, año 1898). Contiene este libro todos los datos relacionados con las vías férreas de la República Argentina que estaban abiertas al tráfico en 1898. Este es un trabajo notable que revela el grado de adelanto á que llegado la estadística en aquella nación.

La edición del 21 de abril de 1900 de la "Berichte über Handel und Industrie" de Berlín se ha dedicado exclusivamente al informe que Mr. WAETZOLD, Agregado Comercial del Consulado de Alemania en Nueva York, ha remitido á su Gobierno respecto al comercio é industria de los Estados Unidos durante el año 1899.

El Museo Comercial de Filadelfia ha publicado un folleto acerca de la marina mercante de los Estados Unidos, comparándola con las demás del mundo, siendo muy importantes las estadísticas que publica, porque por ellas puede fácilmente verse el progreso que se ha hecho en la marina mercante del mundo.

El "American Newspaper Annual," publicado por N. W. AYER é HIJO, de Filadelfia, contiene una lista de los periódicos que se publican en Puerto Rico, Cuba, y demás Antillas, y también en el Hawai.

# BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Uniao Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

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VOL. VIII.

MAIO DE 1900.

No. 5.

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## AUGMENTO NA PRODUÇÃO DO CARVÃO.

O Sr. EDWARD W. PARKER, estatístico da Secção de Estudos Geológicos dos Estados Unidos, calcula em 258,539,650 toneladas de 2,000 libras cada uma, a produção de carvão nos Estados Unidos em 1899, o que mostra um augmento de 17.5 por cento sobre a produção do anno anterior, que foi de 219,974,667 toneladas. A estimativa do Sr. PARKER baseiase em dados estatísticos recebidos das minas que em 1897 produziram mais de 80 por cento do total de carvão.

Este calculo excede em mais de 15,000,000 toneladas aos que teem sido publicados sobre a produção de carvão no anno de 1899. A produção em 1898 excedeu em cerca de 20,000,000 toneladas á de 1897, anno que, por seu turno, foi considerado o de maior produção deste genero. É possível que estes algarismos sejam grandes de mais e que tenham de ser reduzidos, mas uma redução de 5,000,000 toneladas não fará a differença de 2 por cento no total.

O valor total do producto é calculado pelo Sr. PARKER em \$259,-435,412, o qual mostra um augmento de \$51,000,000, ou seja de 20 por cento sobre o valor do producto em 1898.

A produção de carvão anthracite augmentou de 53,382,644 toneladas em 1898 a 60,320,395 toneladas em 1899, seu valor augmentando de \$75,414,537 a \$88,123,493. Na produção de carvão betuminoso (incluindo-se carvão semi-anthracite, semi-betuminoso, “cannel,” e carvão em massa) houve um augmento de mais de 31,600,000 toneladas, e de \$39,000,000 em seu valor.

## ASSUCAR EM HAWAI.

O Sr. ROBERT THOMSON, ex-director do Departamento Botanico de Jamaica, tem dirigido um relatorio ao Governo Britannico sobre a producção de assucar nas ilhas de Hawai, no qual diz que a média de producção de assucar por geira é muito maior nestas ilhas que em qualquer outro dos paizes do mundo productores de assucar. Na ilha de Maui, por exemplo, a média é de tres toneladas e meia por geira. A média de Hawai não é muito grande em consequencia da má qualidade dos terrenos de sua zona secca, mas ainda assim, a producção não baixa de quatro toneladas por geira. A producção média na ilha Kauai é de quatro a cinco toneladas e a de Oahu de seis a sete. Ha, porem, fazendas nas mencionadas ilhas que produzem maior quantidade de assucar por geira que se obtem na ilha em conjuncto.

Uma só fazenda de Oahu, por exemplo, produz dez toneladas por geira, e tem havido epochas em que em certas secções da mesma fazenda se teem obtido dezeseis toneladas de assucar por geira. Ao comparar-se estes resultados com os que se obtêm nas ilhas inglezas, a producção nestas parece muito insignificante. Em Jamaica a producção média por geira durante muitos annos tem sido uma tonelada por geira; na Guyana ingleza e em Trinidad, uma e meia tonelada, pouco mais ou menos. Nesta ultima se tem obtido uma colheita de cinco toneladas por geira, mas isto tem sido sómente em pequenas superficies de cinco ou dez geiras, e em circumstancias excepcionalmente favoraveis. Tres toneladas por geira são obtidas com frequencia em areas de maior tamanho.

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A TARIFA DE PORTO RICO.

Os direitos sobre os artigos mais importantes que se importam em Porto Rico procedentes dos Estados Unidos são: Farinha, livre de direitos; milho,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  centavos por alqueire; toucinho, livre de direitos; farinha de milho, 3 centavos por alqueire; farinha de aveia,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millesimos por libra; arroz, livre de direitos; aveia,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  centavos por alqueire; carne de porco, livre de direitos; maçãs, seccas, 3 millesimos por cada libra do valor de 6 centavos; bacalháu, livre de direitos; carneiro, livre de direitos; velas,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millesimos por libra do valor de 5 centavos; carne fresca, livre de direitos; carvão betuminoso, 10 centavos por libra; abatidas e madeira em cortes para fabricar barris para melado e assucar, livres de direitos; pannos de algodão sem branquear, 3 millesimos por jarda avaliada em 8 centavos, 4 millesimos por jarda do valor de 10 centavos, e 6 millesimos por jarda do valor

de 12 centavos; saccos para assucar, livres de direitos; machinas para a fabricaço e refinaço de assucar, livres de direitos; arame, numeros 13 até 16, 2.2 millesimos por libra; arados, livres de direitos; pregos cortados, nove decimos de millesimo por libra; enxadas, livres de direitos; pregos de arame,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millesimos por libra; aço em barras, nove decimos de millesimo por libra; machetes, livres de direitos; instrumentos e machinas agricolas, livres de direitos; botas e sapatos 3.7 centavos por par no valor de \$1; botas e zapatos de borracha,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  centavos por par do valor de 50 centavos; machadinhas, livres de direitos; fios de algodão em carreteis com 200 jardas de fios em cada carretel, 1.8 centavos por duzia de carreteis no valor de 26 centavos; relógios, do valor de \$1 cada um, 6 centavos; madeiras de construcção, livres de direitos; tapetes, avaliadas em 35 centavos por jarda, 2.6 centavos; arenques seccados, 1 millesimo por libra; mobilia de escola, livre de direitos; papel de escrever, por cada libra do valor de 17 centavos, 8 millesimos; banha, por libra do valor de 6 centavos, 3 millesimos; manteiga, por libra do valor de 14 centavos, 6 millesimos; sabão, por libra no valor de 10 centavos, 3 millesimos; feijão, 6.7 centavos por alqueire; arreios e obras de selleiro, 6.7 centavos por valor de \$1; louça de barro ordinaria no valor de \$1, 3.7 centavos; porcelana por valor de \$1, 8.2 centavos; obras de vidro ordinario por valor de \$1, 6.7 centavos; mobilia de casa, 5.2 centavos por cada \$1 do seu valor.

Importam-se livres de direitos todos os artigos que ficam isentos de direitos na tarifa dos Estados Unidos, com excepção do café, que paga um direito especial.

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## O COMMERCIO DE CAFÉ DE NOVA ORLEANS.

O territorio que contribue ao commercio do porto de Nova Orleans é muito extenso, abrangendo quasi todos os estados do Sul desde Georgia até Texas. Alguns dos estados do Oeste tambem preferem fazer seu commercio pelo porto de Nova Orleans antes do que pelo porto de Nova York. Outr'ora, nos tempos em que as mercadorias foram transportadas principalmente em vapores, o commercio entre o porto de Nova Orleans e os estados do Norte e do Noroeste foi de consideravel importancia. Hoje, o commercio do porto parece ser restabelecido, especialmente com os paizes da America Central e do Sul, sendo de mais importancia o commercio com o Brazil. Isto se deve principalmente ao commercio de café.

O periodico "The New Orleans Picayune," de 30 de Abril de 1900, contem um resumo interessante do "Coffee Trade of New Orleans," que mostra que as importações de café feitas pelo porto de Nova Orleans neste anno foram maiores que as por qualquer outro porto

Americano. O artigo citado é uma exposição interessante do desenvolvimento e das variações do commercio de café nesta metropole do Sul. Diz que a importação total de café nos Estados Unidos, ha oitenta annos, montou a 161,000 saccas de 132 libras cada uma, ou a um total de 21,252,000 libras, ao passo que o consumo foi de só 73,000 saccas ou 9,636,000 libras, o restante sendo reexportado para a Belgica, França e Hollanda. Naquella epocha as principaes fontes de supprimento eram Cuba e Santo Domingo e a maior parte da importação fez-se pelo porto de Nova Orleans. A decadencia daquella cidade como o principal mercado de café começou em 1833. Em 1820 os direitos de importação sobre o café eram cinco centavos por libra; em 1830 os direitos foram reduzidos a dous centavos e em 1831 a um centavo, ficando o café exempto de todo direito em 1833.

Em 1834 as importações de café no porto de Nova Orleans aggregaram 95,253 saccas, das quaes 10,768 vieram do Brazil. Em 1840 as entradas comprehenderam 29,705 saccas procedentes do Brazil e 102,725 saccas de outras procedencias. Em 1850 as importações de café do Brazil haviam subido a 225,013 saccas, ao passo que só 20,627 saccas foram recebidas de outros paizes. Em 1860, antes da guerra civil, entraram no porto de Nova Orleans 283,546 saccas de café, das quaes 278,956 vieram do Brazil. Durante a guerra citada as entradas foram muito insignificantes. Em 1865, anno em que se declarou a paz, as entradas de café do Brazil montaram a 15,948 saccas e as de café de outras procedencias a 1,514 saccas. O Governo dos Estados Unidos, pela lei de 5 de Agosto de 1861, impoz sobre o café um direito de importação de 4 centavos, o qual foi augmentado a 5 centavos pela lei de 24 de Dezembro do mesmo anno. Posteriormente, em 1870, este direito ficou reduzido a 3 centavos por libra e finalmente foi abrogado.

Em 1870 as entradas de café tinham subido a 138,242 saccas, todas as quaes, menos 1,669 saccas, vieram do Brazil. Em 1880 entraram no porto de Nova Orleans 219,143 saccas de café do Brazil e 30,531 saccas de outras procedencias; em 1890 as entradas montaram a 286,760 saccas, das quaes 190,429 saccas foram importadas do Brazil. As entradas durante os nove mezes do presente exercicio teem attin-gido a 324,318 saccas, das quaes todas, exceptuando-se 35,000 saccas, foram importadas do Brazil.

Para fazer as transacções o importador obtem uma carta de credito da agencia em Nova Orleans de uma instituição bancaria de Londres, tendo succursaes no Brazil. Esta carta autoriza o agente do importador no Brazil a sacar uma letra sobre Londres pagavel em noventa dias. Essa letra ou saque é negociado pela casa bancaria do Brazil e acceita pela casa matriz de Londres, e deverá ser acompanhado pela conhecimento, factura, etc. Assim o importador fica habilitado a fazer os pagamentos no Brazil pelos embarques de café.



## DESCOBRIMENTO DE UM NOVO MINERIO.

O “New York Sun,” em seu numero de 25 de Março, 1900, diz que se descobriu recentemente em Houghton, Michigan, uma veia de minerio de cobre da espessura de 15 pollegadas. Esto minerio, quando descoberto, era considerado sulphureto de cobre, mas agora tem-se verificado que é um minerio absolutamente novo, até agora desconhecido. O Prof. GEORGE O. KOENIG, que é reconhecido como auctoridade em assumptos scientificos tanto nos Estados Unidos como na Europa, tem feito muitas experiencias com este minerio e diz que é uma mistura de cobre, nickel e arsenico de grande valor. O Prof. KOENIG deu a este minerio o nome de “Mohawkite,” da mina em que foi descoberto.

## BRAZIL.

## VALOR DA IMPORTAÇÃO.

Segundo o “Boletim da Alfandega do Rio de Janeiro,” o valor official das mercadorias importadas do exterior em 1898 foi de 240,095,426 milreis, que ao cambio de 12d. por \$1, por que são calculados os valores officiaes, representam cerca de £12,000,000. Foram estas as procedencias das mercadorias importadas na ordem dos valores:

	Milreis.		Milreis.
Grã Bretanha.....	98,037,899	Chile .....	2,360,915
Republica Argentina.....	27,132,209	Hespanha.....	2,249,378
Allemanha.....	25,801,735	Austria .....	513,200
França .....	25,512,480	Hollanda .....	189,369
Estados Unidos.....	18,574,463	Suissa .....	77,525
Portugal.....	14,280,674	Suecia .....	7,365
Uruguay.....	12,383,195	Russia .....	2,814
Belgica .....	8,332,872	Diversos.....	3,105
Italia .....	4,696,992		

## EXPORTAÇÃO DE MATO GROSSO.

O “Nouveau Monde” publica os seguintes extractos do relatorio apresentado pelo Sr. CH. A. CADICOT, conselheiro do commercio exterior da França em Cuyabá:

*Pennas.*—Estas provêm dos passaros conhecidos aqui pelo nome de garças, que existem no estado do Mato Grosso em quantidade innumeraveis.

Estas pennas são de duas qualidades: 1ª a aigrette (pennacho) direito comprido de cerca de 15 a 18 centimetros, branco, e a crosse (coronha) mais pequena de 10 a 12 centimetros, branca tambem, cuja parte superior é em fórmula de coronha, o que lhe deu este nome.

Ellas se empregão nas modas e se vendem correntemente nos mercados de Paris, Londres, e Nova York. Segundo a exigência da procura, podem valer, com grandes fluctuações de preço, a 1ª de 850 a 1,400 francos por kilo e a 2ª de 2,000 a 5,000 francos.

Os indios e os colonos caçam em todos os tempos essas aves e principalmente na estação da reprodução, momento em que as pennas estão completas e mais bellas. É facil adquiril-as por troca e em condições vantajosas.

Outras pennas brancas e de côr podem igualmente ser exportadas, mas o comprador deverá seguir prudentemente então os pedidos e a cotação na Europa.

Não ha mais beija-flôres, tendo desaparecido mais ou menos totalmente a especie, em consequencia das caçadas de exterminio que lhes foi feita a alguns annos.

*Baunilha sylvestre*.—A baunilha propriamente dita não existe em Mato Grosso, mas seria facil cultivar-a como no Mexico.

Em compensação, em todas as florestas do norte do estado, e ellas são numerosas, encontra-se a baunilha sylvestre, que cresce abundantemente á sombra quente e humida das grandes arvores.

Até agora ainda não foi feita a colheita com qualquer fim de commercio, pois ella poderia e deveria sê-lo muito fructuosamente.

Esta qualidade de baunilha vale de 14 a 15 francos o kilo na Europa e não custaria senão o trabalho e o tempo de apanhar-a; e esta operação, assim como a da seccação, seria effectuada a baixo preço pelos mesmos trabalhadores que colhessem ao mesmo tempo a borracha, a mangabeira ou a ipecacuanha.

Haveria tempo para a conservação das vagens, durante a viagem de Mato Grosso á Europa, de envolvel-as separadamente em ligeiras folhas de metal.

As vagens desta qualidade são curtas, bastante grossas, mas possuem um perfume exquisito e abundante.

*Couros, bois, vaccas*.—As pelles de vitello não existem commercialmente, porque os fazendeiros só levão ao matadouro individuos adultos.

A Companhia Cibilis (belga), cuja empreza está situada no Descalvado, sobre o rio Paraguay, entre Corumbá e S. José de Caceres, se estende sobre uma superficie de 300 leguas quadradas. Ella faz o commercio do succo de carnes concentradas e de couros, dos quaes expede annualmente 110,000 até 125,000 couros seccos, que se vendem unicamente em Antuerpia.

Esta mesma companhia acaba de comprar, de combinação com outra importante companhia belga, um dominio de 100 leguas quadradas com 70,000 cabeças de gado. É de crer que o seu commercio se torne cada vez mais florescente.

Afóra esta empreza, existe um grande numero de fazendas nas quaes se podem contar 1,000, 10,000 a 15,000 cabeças de gado. Seria, pois,

possível, assim como já se pratica em pequena escala, procurar numerosos couros seccos a bons preços, por via de trocos ou mesmo de importações directas de mercadorias europeas, e depois fornecer com vantagem e concurrentemente com outros paizes (Argentina, Uruguay) nos mercados de Bordeaux, Havre, Dunkerque e Marselha, etc. Poder-se-ha também adquirir couros de cabra.

*Jaguar (leopardo).*—Estas pelles, com ou sem a ossatura da cabeça, seccas ao sol, são bellas, sem serem de grandes dimensões, mas os desenhos são muito regulares e limpos.

*Pumas.*—Não ha leões de juba. O pello é um pouco curto e com as pelles dá-se o mesmo que com os precitados.

*Tigres.*—São de pequeno talhe e de desenhos muito ricos.

Este commercio está centralizado quasi unicamente em communhão. Os preços são bastante moderados e é difficil conhecer os preços obtidos na Europa.

*Conclusões.*—Não existindo estatisticas de especie alguma, é quasi impossivel fazer-se uma idea da importancia deste commercio e do desenvolvimento que pode tomar e pode-se dizer que seria consideravel em pouco tempo, visto como as vias de trocas de mercadorias sendo as mais praticadas, esse commercio favorecia a importação de nossos productos fabricados, os quaes já são muito apreciados.

O conjuncto dessas operações desenvolveria seguramente nova influencia commercial e politica no estado de Mato Grosso.

Vejo com pezar que só os Belgas se têm installado seriamente aqui, e se isso continuar, nossa indiferença lhes abandonará o monopolio de fonte desses proventos.

#### NOTAS MISCELLANEAS.

No dia 2 de Abril foi inaugurado em Macapá, no Estado do Pará, um pharol de quinta ordem. A columna é de ferro e tem 22 metros acima do nivel do mar. A luz é branca e eclypsa trinta segundos. É visivel a 12 milhas.

Está contratada a venda da importante usina de Tocos, propriedade do Banco de Campos, por 16,000 libras, a um syndicato inglez.

Bull. No. 5—12

## CUBA.

## NOVA COMPANHIA DE ESTRADAS DE FERRO.

O "New York Commercial" diz que uma nova companhia de vias ferreas foi incorporada no dia 25 de Abril, 1900, em Trenton, New Jersey. Esta companhia terá um capital de \$8,000,000 e começará operações com um capital de \$2,500,000. O objecto da companhia é estabelecer estradas de ferro e *tramways* de vapor na ilha de Cuba. O valor nominal das apolices é de \$50,000. Os membros da corporação e o numero de apolices que tem cada um, são como se seguem: W. C. VAN HORN, W. C. WHITNEY, LEVI P. MORTON, e THOMAS RYAN, oito apolices cada um; C. G. HAVEN, seis; E. H. HARRIMAN e J. J. HILL, quatro cada um; W. L. BULL, tres, e H. H. L. TERRY, uma.

## RESULTADO DO RECENSEAMENTO.

O resultado do recenseamento da ilha de Cuba, que foi levado a cabo sob a direcção do Departamento da Guerra dos Estados Unidos, foi publicado no dia 19 de Abril. A população total é calculada em 1,572,797, sendo 815,205 do sexo masculino e 757,592 do sexo feminino. O numero dos brancos nascidos na ilha é de 910,298, dos quaes 447,372 são do sexo masculino e 462,916 do sexo feminino. O numero total de brancos é de 1,052,516, dos quaes 563,132 são do sexo masculino e 489,384 do sexo feminino. O numero dos negros é de 234,638, dos quaes 111,898 são do sexo masculino e 122,740 do feminino. A população de nacionalidade mixta é de 270,805, sendo 125,500 homens e 145,305 mulheres. Os chinezes alcançam ao numero de 14,857, dos quaes 163 são mulheres.

Quanto á nacionalidade, 1,296,367 eram cidadãos de Cuba; 20,478 eram cidadãos de Hespanha; 79,526, cidadãos de outros paizes estrangeiros, ao passo que a nacionalidade de 616 não foi conhecida. O numero dos que se nasceram em Hespanha foi de 129,240. Da população total, 1,108,709 eram solteiros. As pessoas que sabem ler e escrever foram no numero de 443,426, e no numero de 19,158, as que tinham recebido uma educação superior.

A população das provincias foi como se segue: Havana, 424,804 (cidade de Havana, 235,981); Matanzas, 202,444; Pinar del Rio, 173,064; Puerto Principe, 88,234; Santa Clara, 356,536, e Santiago, 327,715.

## RECEITA ADUANEIRA DE HAVANA.

A receita da alfandega de Havana nos primeiros tres mezes de 1900 foi de \$3,126,414.70, contra \$2,348,888.75 no mesmo periodo de 1899.

Como se inclui neste trimestre o mez de Fevereiro, tendo sómente vinte e dous dias de trabalho, o augmento de \$777,525.95 é considerado muito notavel.

As verbas provenientes das diversas fontes de receita foram como se seguem: Direitos de importação, \$2,778,678, contra \$2,035,809.17 em 1899; direitos de exportação, \$212,439.17, contra \$223,353.89; impostos sobre navios, \$62,371.65, contra \$70,139.50 em 1899; obras de melhoramento do porto, \$44,804.60, contra \$5,455.50 no anno anterior; multas, etc., \$1,518.69, contra \$1.28; impostos por cabeça, \$5,543, contra \$6,674; armazenagem, \$9,013.63; emolumentos consulares, \$318; inspecção de gado, \$7,185.20; de todas as outras fontes, \$1,837, contra \$7,455.41 em 1899.

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## ESTADOS UNIDOS.

### UMA EXPEDIÇÃO SCIENTIFICA PARA A LIBERIA.

No dia 18 de Abril proximo passado os Srs. NORMAN B. BUXTON, dos Estados Unidos, e WALDEMAR GOGARES e WALDEMAR JACKELSON, de Russia, embarcaram do porto de San Francisco para fazer uma expedição ás regiões ainda não exploradas do oeste da Siberia. Um dos objectos da expedição é determinar si os indios americanos sejam ou não descendentes das tribús da Asia. Os russos occupar-se-hão principalmente da phase ethnologica, estudando a lingua, os cantos, costumes, characteristics physicas, etc., de quasi todas as tribús que habitam na parte noroeste da Siberia. O Sr. BUXTON limitará seus trabalhos á zoologia, fazendo uma nova collecção de passaros e animaes para o muséu de Central Park, Nova York. Espera-se que estes cientistas se ausentem do paiz pelo espaço de dous annos.

### MERCADO PARA LANCHAS.

O periodico "The Exporters and Importers' Journal," em seu numero correspondente a 14 de Abril de 1900, diz que tem-se pedido aos Estados Unidos durante este anno grande numero de lanchas de pequeno calado de paizes da America Central e do Sul. Diz-se que os primeiros pedidos foram feitos por cidadãos dos Estados Unidos que tinham plantações nestes paizes, mas que agora se recebem encomendas de lanchas de plantadores nacionaes. Um agente de Nova York já tem enviado a estes paizes 30 lanchas, a vapor e a naphtha. Durante uma semana, uma lancha foi enviado a Bocas del Toro, Costa Rica, e duas a Puerto Cortez, Honduras.

**NAVIOS ISENTOS DE DIREITOS DE TONELAGEM.**

A Repartição de Navegação dos Estados Unidos tem publicado uma circular que diz que, de conformidade com a secção 9 do Código de Porto Rico, que foi recentemente aprovado, de 1º de Maio em diante todos os navios que entrarem nos portos dos Estados Unidos de portos da ilha de Porto Rico ou que entrarem nos portos de Porto Rico de portos dos Estados Unidos, estarão isentos de direitos de tonelagem. Os navios que entrarem nos portos da ilha de portos fóra dos Estados Unidos pagarão, de 1º de Maio em diante, os direitos de tonelagem.

Em virtude de uma circular expedida mais tarde pelo Ministério da Fazenda, todos os navios pertencentes a cidadãos de Porto Rico na data da ratificação do tratado, poderão ser admittidos ao registro americano, comtanto que os proprietarios, capitães e officiaes de guarda sejam cidadãos dos Estados Unidos ou prestem juramento de fidelidade aos Estados Unidos.

**A RENDA INTERNA PARA O MEZ DE MARÇO.**

O quadro demonstrativo das entradas da renda interna mostra que as entradas provenientes de todas as fontes durante o mez de Março ascenderam a \$24,326,677, ou seja um augmento, comparado com o mesmo mez de 1899, de \$1,588,228. As entradas das differentes fontes foram como segue: Licores, \$9,607,599, augmento \$647,429; tabaco, \$5,348,429, augmento \$854,662; bebidas fermentadas, \$5,180,852, augmento \$213,299; oleomargarina, \$225,162, augmento \$58,457; renda extraordinaria \$21,374, diminuição \$19,276; outras fontes, \$3,943,258, diminuição \$166,345.

**A QUANTIDADE DE MOEDA CUNHADA NO MEZ DE MARÇO.**

A quantidade total de moeda cunhada durante o mez de Março proximo passado foi a maior de que ha recordo em um só mez com excepção do de Janeiro, 1899, quando o valor da moeda cunhada foi de \$17,705,590. A quantidade total cunhada no mez de Março proximo passado foi no valor de \$17,075,688.32. O valor do ouro cunhado foi de \$12,596,240. Toda esta quantidade, com a excepção da somma de \$1,480, foi em peças de ouro do valor de \$20. As moedas de prata foram no valor de \$4,341,375.70; as de nickel, no valor de \$104,593.85, e as peças de cobre de 1 centavo, no de \$33,478.77. A quantidade de moeda cunhada nas casas de moeda dos Estados Unidos durante os nove mezes do presente exercicio foi no valor de \$106,732,213.84.

**RECEITAS E DESPEZAS DURANTE O MEZ DE ABRIL.**

O quadro comparativo da receita e despesa dos Estados Unidos no mez de Abril, publicado pela Secretaria de Fazenda, mostra que as entradas totaes durante este mez foram de \$45,039,325, provenientes das seguintes fontes: das alfandegas, \$18,765,017; renda interna, \$23,600,291; outras fontes, \$2,674,017. As despesas ascenderam a \$40,903,927, deixando um saldo para o mez de \$4,135,398. As receitas durante os dez mezes do exercicio corrente excederam ás despesas em \$58,521,089, havendo subido a \$472,387,062 as receitas e as despesas a \$413,866,974. Compreendida nas despesas para o mez de Abril, é a somma de \$500,000 que foi enviada para a ilha de Porto Rico para effectuar o cambio da moeda de Porto Rico. O *peso* de Porto Rico equivale a 60 centavos na moeda dos Estados Unidos.

**COMMISSÃO DE RECLAMAÇÕES CHILENAS.**

De accordo com as estipulações do convenio de reclamações celebrado entre os Estados Unidos e o Chile, o Presidente McKINLEY tem nomeado o Sr. WILLIAM GAGE, do Estado de Michigan, e o Sr. WILLIAM H. HUNT, de Montana, para ser respectivamente commissario e agente dos Estados Unidos no arbitramento das reclamações pendentés.

**A INDUSTRIA DE PAPEL NO ESTADO DE MAINE.**

As industrias de granito, cal, ardosa e ferro no Estado de Maine são muito importantes, mas a industria de papel é mais valiosa que todas as outras juntas. Ha no Estado de Maine 30 fabricas de papel de massa de madeira, com uma producção diaria de 1,800 toneladas de papel, e espera-se que dentro em pouco a producção attingirá a 2,500 toneladas. Como a conservação das florestas é necessaria á esta industria, os principaes manufactureiros teem adoptado regulamentos restrictivos em quanto ao corte das arvores, não podendo-se cortar as arvores pequenas até que tenham, ao menos, 1 pés de diametro.

**IMPORTAÇÃO DE CAIXAS DE RELOGIO EM SUISSA.**

O "Commercial Intelligencer," de Londres, diz que as caixas de relógio americanas têm sido importadas em Suissa em quantidades tão grandes que os manufactureiros de relógios deste paiz têm tomado medidas para impedir ou, pelo menos, restringir sua importação. Uma comissão tem sido organizada com o objecto de melhorar o actual methodo de fabricação de relógios de modo que estes mantenham sua reputação nos mercados estrangeiros, assim como nos domesticos, onde

se sente muito a concorrência americana. Offerecer-se-hão premios aos que fizerem melhoramentos na manufactura de relógios. Como a industria de relógios é a em que os suíços teem feito grande reputação em todo o mundo, é natural que lhes cause grande perturbação a concorrência dos Estados Unidos.

### IMPORTAÇÃO DE CAFÉ EM SAN FRANCISCO.

As importações de café em San Francisco nos tres mezes findos em 1º de Abril de 1900 montaram a 10,551,233 libras, avaliadas em \$1,167,098. No mesmo periodo de 1899 as importações foram de 8,490,737 libras, no valor de \$918,434. As procedencias do café eram as seguintes:

	Libras.
Da America Central .....	9, 848, 432
Do Mexico.....	502, 733
Da America do Sul .....	101, 250
De Hawai.....	18, 400
Das Indias Orientaes .....	45, 288
Da China .....	35, 050

Durante esse mesmo periodo se receberam no porto de San Francisco 961,320 libras de assucar procedentes da America Central e 315,000 libras do Mexico.

### EMIGRAÇÃO ALLEMÃ.

Estatisticas que acabam de ser publicadas em Bremen, Allemanha, mostram que no primeiro trimestre de 1900 embarcaram daquelle porto, com destino aos Estados Unidos, 24,637 emigrantes, contra 14,367 emigrantes no mesmo periodo de 1899. Estatisticas da emigração allemã para 1899 mostram que 23,740 pessoas sahiram do paiz durante o anno, das quaes 19,016 foram destinadas aos Estados Unidos. No mesmo anno 1,089 emigrantes embarcaram para o Brazil, contra 629 em 1898.

### ACIDO TANNICO.

Acido tannico tem sido descoberto nas raizes dos palmitos que se encontram no estado de Florida. Uma companhia com um capital de \$50,000 foi organizada em Palatka, Florida, para a fabricação deste acido, a qual começou operações no dia 1º de Maio, 1900.

### AUGMENTO DAS RENDAS POSTAES.

Estatisticas publicadas pelo Departamento dos Correios mostram que houve um augmento de \$2,759,415 no valor dos sellos, bilhetes-postaes,



etc., emitidos nos tres mezes findos em 31 de Março, comparado com o mesmo periodo de 1899.

#### AUTOMOVEIS PARA HAWAI.

Diz-se que em Abril de 1900 automoveis no valor de \$50,000 foram enviados de Chicago para Hawai. Estes comprehendian cabriolés, carros para distribuição de mercadorias e carros de passeio.

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#### BIBLIOGRAPHIA.

Nesta secção do Boletim Mensal se tratará dos livros e folhetos enviados á Secretaria das Republicas Americanas que se referem a assumptos de interesse aos paizes da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

A segunda edição de “Notes on the Nicaraguan Canal” (Notas sobre o Canal de Nicaragua), por HENRY I. SHELDON, foi publicada por A. G. McCLURG & Co., de Chicago, Illinois, 1899. A viagem a Nicaragua que esta obra descreve foi feita com o objecto de obter dados para animar os interesses agricolas da costa do Pacifico dos Estados Unidos e deu em resultado argumentos em favor da construcção do canal maritimo de Nicaragua. Desde a primeira edição da obra o assumpto tem assumido novo aspecto, como resultado da acquisição pelos Estados Unidos das ilhas de Hawai e das Philippinas. A necessidade urgente que se sente de um caminho mais curto do que o por via do Cabo Horn, entre o Atlantico e o Pacifico, tem dado maior importancia ao projecto do canal. Um capitulo desta obra dá uma descripção de Nicaragua e dos seus habitantes, e outro descreve as cidades da Republica. O livro contem numerosas illustrações e dous mappas.

O boletim no. 8 da “American Jewish Historical Society” foi recentemente publicado pela FRIEDENWALD Ca., de Baltimore, Maryland. O objecto desta sociedade é organizar e publicar dados sobre a historia dos Estados Unidos no que se relaciona com os judeos. Affirma-se que os judeos de Hespanha e Portugal participaram, em algum gráo, no descobrimento da America e que havia judeos de Hollanda, Grã Bretanha, Jamaica e de outros paizes entre os habitantes e defensores das colonias que mais tarde constituiram os treze primeiros estados. Os artigos do presente numero das publicações desta sociedade são, em maior parte, descriptivos dos primeiros immigrants judaicos nos Estados Unidos.

No numero de "The National Geographic Magazine" correspondente ao mez de Abril de 1900, o Sr. MARCUS BAKER escreve um artigo muito interessante sobre a questão de limites anglo-venezuelana; o Commandante WEBSTER dá uma descripção de uma viagem que fez ultimamente a Corea, e o Sr. C. W. HAYES trata da inconstancia no nivel do Lago de Nicaragua, materia que affecta a permanencia do canal de Nicaragua.

O "Shepherd's Bulletin," publicado em Boston, Massachusetts, é o orgão de "The National Wool Growers' Association of the United States." Seu numero correspondente ao mez de Abril, 1900, contem grande numero de artigos muito interessantes sobre o tratamento de carneiros.

# BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

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VOL. VIII.

MAI 1900.

No. 5.

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## L'INDUSTRIE DE LA SOIE DANS LE MONDE.

On a publié récemment, en forme de livre, le 28<sup>ème</sup> Rapport annuel de l'Association des fabricants de soieries d'Amérique. Ce rapport contient beaucoup de renseignements du plus grand intérêt pour les pays et les personnes intéressés de quelque manière que ce soit dans l'industrie de la soie. Les tableaux statistiques que contient ce rapport sont bien plus complets que les précédents et montrent la production du monde de la soie écrue et la part prise par les Etats-Unis dans cette industrie. Dans ce rapport sont aussi renfermés les discours qui ont été prononcés au banquet anniversaire de l'association mentionné dans le BULLETIN MENSUEL du mois de mars 1899, page 513 (espagnol); page 539 (français). Les statistiques concernant la manufacture de la soie aux Etats-Unis étant données dans l'article publié dans le BULLETIN ci-dessus indiqué, il est par conséquent inutile de les reproduire ici.

D'après les chiffres du rapport on voit que la production du monde augmente d'une manière aussi constante que rapide, et les différentes moyennes données ci-dessous pour des périodes de cinq années chacune, le démontreront. De 1882 à 1886, la production moyenne était 21,234,429 livres; de 1887 à 1891, elle était 25,077,325 livres; de 1892 à 1896, elle atteignait 29,794,728 livres; pour 1896-97, la production était 30,383,797 livres; pour 1897-98, 31,135,565 livres; en 1898-99, le nombre de livres se montait à 31,812,378, et pour 1899-1900 la production était estimée à 34,457,898 livres.

Pendant l'année dernière, on a importé dans tous les ports des Etats-Unis 77,414 balles de soie écrue, évaluées à \$42,399,604, contre 57,515 balles, évaluées à \$27,636,985 pour l'année précédente.

## CUIR PROVENANT DES PEAUX DE POISSONS.

La Commission de Pisciculture des Etats-Unis (the United States Fish Commission) a fait une collection de cuirs fabriqués avec les peaux de poissons et autres animaux aquatiques, principalement de ceux qui promettent d'être d'un usage pratique. Plusieurs espèces de poissons ont des peaux qui produisent un cuir excellent pouvant servir à quelques usages—la peau du saumon, par exemple, dont les Esquimaux d'Alaska font des chemises et des bottes imperméables. Ils font aussi avec les peaux de morues des vêtements que l'on dit être d'un grand usage. Aux Etats-Unis on commence déjà à employer la peau de grenouille pour la reliure des livres où, dans ce cas, un matériel excessivement fin est requis. Il existe certaines tribus de sauvages qui fabriquent des plastrons avec les peaux des aiguilles de mer sur lesquels un couteau ou une lance se recourbent émoussés. Un boulet peut percer ce plastron, mais on dit qu'il est impossible de le trancher, d'un seul coup, avec une hache. Ces sauvages portent aussi avec cette cuirasse un casque fait de la peau du porc-épic de mer, couvert d'une quantité de piquants formidables. Fixé solidement sur la tête, ce casque devient une arme dangereuse dans un combat corps à corps où il est employé pour donner des coups de tête.

La "Gloucester Isinglass and Glue Company" a fabriqué récemment quelques chaussures avec les peaux de morue et de brôme. Dans le Bas Yukon, dans l'Alaska, les natifs portent généralement des surtouts faits avec les peaux tannées de poissons. Les manches de fouets sont fabriqués avec les peaux de requins et les boîtes d'instruments sont ordinairement couvertes avec le même matériel connu sous le nom de chagrin ou peau chagrinée. On dit que l'on fait un excellent cuir avec les peaux de baleines qui servent à divers usages et que le cuir fabriqué avec la peau de marsouin est considéré comme un matériel très supérieur pour les cuirs à raser. Dans la collection de la Commission de Pisciculture est comprise la peau du veau-marin ou phoque, teinte en un grand nombre de différentes couleurs. Ce cuir est obtenu du phoque à poil et non de l'espèce qui est couverte d'une fourrure et que l'on emploie en très grande quantité dans la fabrication des portefeuilles de poche.

Les veaux-marins à poil se trouvent en très grande quantité dans le Nord de l'Océan Atlantique, et comme on peut les tuer facilement ils sont une source d'approvisionnement considérable de cuir qui donne les plus grandes espérances. Le cuir fait avec la peau du morse a paru récemment sur les marchés, mais comme ces animaux sont exterminés rapidement, les résultats, au point de vue commercial, seront très petits. Un autre cuir vendu actuellement sur les marchés

est celui de l'éléphant de mer. Jusque dans les dernières années, des espèces d'éléphants de mer furent trouvés sur les côtes du Pacifique, errant aussi loin que le nord de la Basse Californie, mais on a tué une si grande quantité de ces animaux qu'on en voit rarement aujourd'hui. On en trouve d'autres genres dans les mers antarctiques, principalement dans les Iles Kerguelen. Quand il a toute sa croissance, un animal de ces espèces pèse environ 2,000 livres et a une longueur de 18 pieds environ.

La Commission a aussi acquis des spécimens faits de la peau des manatis, cet animal aquatique énorme des eaux de l'Amérique Centrale et de l'Amérique du Sud qui pèse 1,000 kilos et se nourrit de plantes aquatiques. On trouve aussi quelques-uns de ces animaux dans les eaux de la Floride et les apprivoisés sont doux, intelligents et affectueux. Le plus ordinairement on les attrape en étendant des rets à l'embouchure du cours d'eau où ils se nourrissent et dans lesquels ils se prennent. On paye actuellement 100 dollars pour un squelette de manati, comme curiosité pour un musée. Naturellement les cuirs faits avec les peaux des alligators et des crocodiles sont compris dans la collection décrite; aussi la peau du serpent connu sous le nom de mocassin d'eau que l'on emploie pour fabriquer les ceintures pour dames et les porte-monnaie. Ce sont cependant les cuirs de poissons qui sont les plus précieux dans la collection, et c'est surtout sur leur utilité dans l'industrie que la Commission a porté toute son attention.

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## L'INDUSTRIE DU CUIR.

À la dernière réunion de l'Association Nationale des Manufacturiers des Etats-Unis qui a eu lieu à Boston, Massachusetts, de nombreux rapports intéressants sur cette industrie furent lus et discutés. Parmi eux s'en trouvait un de Mr. RICHARD YOUNG, de la ville de New-York, sur le développement de la fabrication des cuirs en Amérique et dont les passages suivants ont été extraits: Les progrès qui ont été faits dans l'invention des machines, aussi bien que dans les méthodes employées pour diminuer la main-d'œuvre et l'obtenir à meilleur marché, ont été si rapides et ont pris un tel accroissement, que les manufacturiers des Etats-Unis ont été capables d'obtenir un marché pour presque tous leurs produits manufacturés, même dans beaucoup de pays où cela semblait impossible à cause du bon marché de la main-d'œuvre. Aujourd'hui, les instruments aratoires, les machines, les rails d'acier, les cotonnades, les farines, etc., que produisent ou manufacturent les Etats-Unis, trouvent constamment un marché très étendu. Si les manufacturiers avaient la sagesse d'adopter leurs marchandises suivant

les besoins et les désirs des acheteurs, les possibilités du développement seraient presque illimitées.

Le commerce du cuir n'a pas été une exception à la règle générale. Il y a un quart de siècle, on n'avait pas songé à la possibilité d'exporter en grande quantité les cuirs fabriqués des peaux préparées des chèvres, des moutons, des kangouroux. A ce temps-là, les marchands des Etats-Unis allaient à l'étranger à des époques déterminées pour acheter leurs approvisionnements de cuirs préparés en Angleterre, en France et en Allemagne. Presque toute la chaussure fine pour les hommes était faite avec les cuirs de veaux français, et celle des dames de peaux de chevreaux français; les importations de ces deux classes de cuirs se montant annuellement à \$6,000,000 environ. A cette époque, le commerce de la manufacture des peaux de veaux aux Etats-Unis était presque insignifiant et demandait des efforts considérables, et celui des peaux de chevreaux était très peu important quant à la valeur et à la qualité inférieure. Lorsqu'un fabricant déclarait avoir l'intention de faire 300 douzaines de paires de chaussures différentes de peaux de chèvres, les autres lui prédisaient un désastre, car à cette époque, 30, 40, ou 100 douzaines par jour étaient considérées comme un chiffre fabuleux.

A peu près à la même époque, un nouveau tannage connu sous le nom de tannage dongola fut inventé pour remplacer le sumac, le tan et l'alun qui à ce temps-là réussissaient et donnaient une grande impétuosité à cette industrie. Un nouveau procédé révolutionna complètement le commerce, attirant l'attention des tanneurs du monde entier et commençant une nouvelle ère d'expérience qui résulta dans l'introduction d'un tannage chimique ou chromique qui d'abord fit perdre aux pionniers des sommes considérables, ruinant la plupart d'entre eux. Des milliers de douzaines de peaux furent détruites mais les manufacturiers continuèrent héroïquement leurs efforts jusqu'à ce qu'ils furent couronnés de succès. Depuis cette époque, une diminution considérable s'est produite dans les grandes importations des cuirs de veaux préparés; quant aux importations des cuirs de chevreaux elles sont presque nulles. Les Etats-Unis reçoivent encore des quantités considérables de cuirs vernis, mais, même dans ce produit, les manufactures du pays font des progrès.

Ils exportent déjà des peaux de chèvres et de veaux tannées chimiquement, et on prédit qu'avant dix ans tous les cuirs vernis et émaillés dont on fait usage aux Etats-Unis seront fabriqués dans le pays. L'industrie du cuir a pris un tel développement que, pendant les huit mois qui viennent de s'écouler, on a importé 60,000,000 peaux de chèvres, contre 40,000,000 pendant la même période de l'année antérieure, et les importations des autres peaux ont augmenté dans les mêmes proportions. Les exportations des cuirs pour semelles, pendant ce laps de temps, ont augmenté de 20 pour cent ou de \$4,500,000.

Les exportations des empeignes ont aussi augmenté de 20 pour cent ou de \$10,000,000. Celles des peaux de chevreaux vernies ont augmenté en huit mois de la différence entre \$350,000 et \$1,500,000. La production entière des peaux de chèvres a dépassé 12,000 douzaines, et en y comprenant les peaux des kangouroux elle a atteint journallement 20,000 douzaines. Le commerce avec la Belgique, la Hollande, la Norvège, la Suède et la Russie est considérable, mais les grands marchés ouverts aux Etats-Unis sont l'Angleterre, la France et l'Allemagne.

Mr. YOUNG termine son rapport en donnant quelques conseils au sujet du soin à apporter dans les méthodes à employer pour préparer et expédier les produits des Etats-Unis; il est d'avis qu'il est préférable de négliger le commerce du pays que le trafic étranger, les erreurs étant plus faciles à rectifier dans le premier cas que dans le second.

## PRODUCTION DU ZINC DANS LE MONDE EN 1899.

Voici, d'après une statistique publiée dernièrement par MM. H. MERTON & C<sup>ie</sup>., de Londres, comment s'est répartie la production du zinc dans le monde pendant les deux dernières années:

[En tonnes de 1,000 kilos.]

Pays.	1898.		1899.		Augmen- tation.
	<i>Tonnes.</i>	<i>Pour cent.</i>	<i>Tonnes.</i>	<i>Pour cent.</i>	<i>Tonnes.</i>
Westphalie, Belgique et Pays-Bas .....	191,836	40.9	192,944	38.9	1,158
Silésie .....	99,233	21.2	100,160	20.2	924
Grande-Bretagne .....	28,387	6.1	32,223	6.5	3,836
France et Espagne .....	32,649	7.0	33,482	6.8	833
Autriche .....	7,229	1.5	7,305	1.5	76
Pologne .....	5,664	1.2	6,325	1.3	661
Total pour l'Europe .....	364,998	77.9	372,489	75.2	7,498
Etats-Unis .....	103,514	22.1	123,194	24.8	19,680
Total général .....	468,512	100.0	495,683	100.0	27,178

Comme on le voit, l'augmentation a été relativement peu importante, excepté pour la Grande-Bretagne qui a gagné 13.5 pour cent sur une production comparativement restreinte, il est vrai.

Pour toute l'Europe, l'augmentation en 1899 n'a été que de 3.1 pour cent.

C'est aux Etats-Unis que le changement a été le plus considérable, ce pays ayant fourni environ les trois quarts des 5.8 pour cent en plus constatés dans la production totale du zinc dans le monde en 1899. La production du zinc produite dans ce pays a, en effet, passé de 22.1 à 24.8 pour cent du total, et on s'attend à une augmentation plus considérable encore pour l'année en cours.

## CUIVRE PROVENANT DU CHILI.

Dans un article qu'il a écrit pour le journal "Mines and Minerals" du mois d'avril 1900, et qui a pour titre "The World's Copper Supply" (L'approvisionnement du cuivre du monde), Mr. H. J. STEVENS répond à une accusation portée par la presse financière européenne au sujet de la manipulation du cuivre par les importateurs des Etats-Unis, fondée sur le fait que les grandes importations de cuivre de l'Angleterre et de Wales sur les divers marchés enropéens coïncidaient avec l'expédition des produits des Etats-Unis. Mr. STEVENS dit que le cuivre importé à New-York de la Grande-Bretagne est tout, ou pratiquement tout, de la forme des barres chiliennes. Ce cuivre en barres est supposé être du cuivre de rosette d'une excellente qualité et qui peut être vendu sur les marchés pour tous les usages pratiques. Industriellement, les barres chiliennes sont du cuivre excellent, mais au point de vue métallurgique elles sont impures et contiennent une quantité considérable d'argent que les fondeurs de la ville de Swansea ne peuvent pas extraire du métal le plus commun.

Pendant les quelques mois qui viennent de s'écouler, ces barres ont été apportées aux Etats-Unis par milliers de tonnes et ont été affinées par un système électrolytique à Perth Amboy, New-Jersey, et une grande quantité d'argent en a été obtenue. Les barres sont employées comme anodes, et par un procédé habile d'opération électrique et de dépôt, chaque particule du métal est lentement mais sûrement prise de l'anode à travers l'eau acidulée des cuves électrolytiques et le cuivre se dépose de nouveau sur la cathode pendant que l'argent est précipité au fond et recouvré plus tard au moyen de réactifs. Pendant les deux années passées, les Etats-Unis ont expédié en Europe, et spécialement à la Grande-Bretagne, de si grandes quantités de denrées alimentaires et de produits manufacturés que le prix du fret des navires retournant aux Etats-Unis a été très bas et les armateurs de bateaux à vapeur ont été très heureux d'obtenir tout le fret possible pour ne pas être obligés, dans de nombreux cas, de lester leurs navires. Ceci a occasionné une baisse dans les prix du fret des barres chiliennes et l'argent a été obtenu en si grandes quantités que l'entreprise a été on ne peut plus profitable.

M. STEVENS termine son article avec une déduction pratique en faveur de cette branche d'industrie des Etats-Unis, et s'exprime ainsi: "Pendant le siècle passé, les affineurs de Swansea ont tenu le premier rang en métallurgie, mais l'habileté des métallurgistes américains de prendre le produit fini des mains des fondeurs de Wales, et, par des des procédés ultérieurs d'en retirer un beau profit, montre les progrès prodigieux de cette industrie américaine.



## LES APPROVISIONNEMENTS D'HUILE MINÉRALE DU MONDE.

Les chiffres qui ont été récemment publiés dans les différents pays, compilés par le "Iron and Coal Trades Review," de Londres, permettent de calculer l'approvisionnement d'huile minérale du monde. Ces statistiques sont très intéressantes pour tous les pays qui produisent du pétrole et aussi pour ceux qui, jusqu'à un certain point, dépendent de l'huile minérale pour la lumière et le chauffage.

La quantité totale d'huile minérale qui a été produite aux Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899, réduite en gallons impériaux, s'est montée à 2,058,656,600 contre 2,110,030,000 en 1898. La quantité totale exportée en 1899 s'est montée à 951,024,441 gallons contre 986,480,610 en 1898. Après les Etats-Unis, la Russie est le pays qui a produit le plus d'huile minérale en 1899, le total s'élevant à 8,470,931 tonnes contre 7,841,871 tonnes en 1898. Le rendement des sources de pétrole est la grande caractéristique de l'industrie russe, quoique pendant les années récentes une diminution considérable ait été constatée. Les exportations de la Russie pendant l'année 1899 se sont montées à 69,738,000 gallons.

Parmi les autres pays produisant de l'huile minérale, les plus importants, avec leurs rendements respectifs calculés en gallons, étaient en 1899, comme suit: Autriche, 87,000,000; Sumatra, 72,000,000; Java, 30,000,000; Canada, 29,000,000; Roumanie, 24,000,000; Inde, 15,000,000; Parmi les pays de l'Amérique Méridionale, le Pérou est le seul qui figure dans les rapports, mais la quantité exacte produite n'est pas encore déterminée.

Récemment on a payé pour l'huile brute aux Etats-Unis les prix les plus élevés, mais les rapports disent que la production augmente et qu'une baisse dans les prix est imminente.

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### BRÉSIL.

#### AMÉLIORATION DU PORT DE PARA.

D'après un rapport récent du Consul d'Angleterre à Para, dit le "Bulletin Commercial" de Bruxelles, les autorités de l'Etat de ce nom se rendent parfaitement compte de l'urgente nécessité qu'il y a d'améliorer les installations du port de Para.

Les chambres législatives de l'État sont occupées à examiner la question, et le gouverneur est d'avis que l'État devrait demander au gouvernement central du Brésil l'autorisation de commencer les travaux du port afin de pouvoir ensuite les confier à un entrepreneur.

Le gouverneur recommande également que l'extension de la distribution d'eau et des égouts soit comprise dans le contrat pour les travaux du port, dans le cas où l'adjudicataire serait disposé à se charger à la fois de ces trois entreprises.

#### **FACTURES CONSULAIRES.**

En présence des protestations formulées par le syndicat des commerçants de Rio de Janeiro, contre la formalité des factures consulaires dont la production avait été rendue obligatoire, après un premier ajournement, l'administration des finances du Brésil vient de nouveau de suspendre l'application de la mesure dont il s'agit.

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### **COLOMBIE.**

#### **ADJUDICATION PUBLIQUE.**

Le 2 décembre 1900, à 4 heures, aura lieu au Ministère des finances (Hacienda), à Santa-Fé de Bagotá, une adjudication pour la mise en location, pour une période de 15 années, des mines d'émeraudes de Muzo et de Coscuez. Cautionnement, 100,000 piastres à verser à la trésorerie de l'Etat, ou 40,000 piastres or, à un des ministres ou consuls généraux de la République à l'étranger. Le concessionnaire doit s'engager à payer au gouvernement une prime qui ne peut être inférieure à 200,000 piastres or, et une annuité à indiquer par l'intéressé dans sa soumission.

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### **CUBA.**

#### **RÉSULTATS DU RECENSEMENT.**

Les résultats du recensement de l'île de Cuba, fait sous la direction du Ministère de la Guerre des Etats-Unis, furent publiés le 9 avril 1900. On a constaté que le nombre des habitants se montait à 1,572,797, dont 815,205 étaient du sexe masculin et 757,592 du sexe féminin. Ceux nés dans l'île comprennent 447,372 blancs et 462,926 blanches. Le total des blancs était 1,052,516, dont 563,132 appartenaient au sexe masculin et 489,384 au sexe féminin; en conséquence le nombre des habitants nés à l'étranger est 115,760 pour le sexe masculin et 26,458 pour le sexe féminin. La population nègre se chiffre à 234,638, dont 111,898 du sexe masculin et 122,740 du sexe féminin. Les races croisées se chiffraient à 125,500 du sexe masculin et 145,305 du sexe féminin, soit un total de 270,805. Il y avait, en outre, 14,857 Chinois, dont 163 appartenant au sexe féminin.

En ce qui concerne les droits de cité, 1,296,367 se faisaient appeler

Cubains; 20,478 étaient Espagnols; 175,811 n'étaient pas certains s'ils deviendraient ou non citoyens Cubains; 79,526 étaient citoyens de pays autres que Cuba et l'Espagne, pendant que la nationalité de 616 était inconnue. Le nombre de ceux nés en Espagne se montait à 129,240, et, de la population totale, 1,108,709 étaient célibataires. Les personnes pouvant lire et écrire se chiffraient à 443,426 et 19,158 avaient reçu une instruction supérieure.

La population de chaque province était déterminée comme suit: Havana, 424,804 (la ville de Havana, 235,981); Matanzas, 202,444; Piñar del Rey, 173,064; Puerto Principe, 88,234; Santa Clara, 356,536, et Santiago, 327,715.

#### **DROITS DE DOUANE PERÇUS À HAVANA.**

Les droits de douane perçus par les Bureaux de la Douane de Havana, pendant le 1<sup>er</sup> trimestre de l'année 1900, se sont montés à \$3,126,414.70 contre \$2,348,888.75 pour la même période de 1899. Comme le mois de février, qui est le plus court de l'année, est compris dans ce trimestre avec seulement 22 jours de travail, l'augmentation de \$777,525.95 est considérée comme très remarquable.

Voici les différentes sources de ces revenus ainsi que les statistiques comparatives pour la même période de l'année précédente: Droits d'entrée, \$2,778,678 contre \$2,035,809.17 en 1899; droits de sortie, \$212,439.17 contre \$223,353.89; droits de tonnage, \$62,371.65 contre \$70,139.50; droits sur les améliorations des ports, \$44,804.60 contre \$5,455.50; amendes, saisies, etc., \$1,518.69 contre \$1.28; taxe par tête, \$5,543 contre \$6,674; frais d'emmagasinage et de charriage, \$9,013.63 contre aucun en 1899; droits consulaires, \$318 (aucun en 1899); pour les heures de travail supplémentaires, \$2,705 (rien en 1899); droits d'inspection du bétail, \$7,185.20 (rien en 1899); toutes les autres sources de revenus, \$1,837 contre \$7,455.41 en 1899.

#### **NOUVEAU PAQUEBOT.**

Le 14 avril 1900 fut lancé à Philadelphie un des paquebots les plus magnifiques qui ait été construit aux Etats-Unis. C'est le "Morro Castle" qui appartient à la flotte de la ligne "Ward" ou "The New York and Cuban Mail Steamship Company." Le "Morro Castle" fut construit par MM. WILLIAM CRAMP ET FILS, il mesure 400 pieds de long, 60 pieds de large, a 22 pieds de tirant d'eau, des machines à vapeur de la force de 8,000 chevaux et qui feront filer au navire 18 nœuds à l'heure. Ce paquebot pourra accommoder 243 passagers et l'aménagement intérieur offrira aux voyageurs tout le confort désirable. Ce paquebot, qui sera le plus grand de la flotte, coûtera environ \$700,000.

## ÉQUATEUR.

## CHAPEAUX DE PANAMA.

Le "Recueil Consulaire Belge" pour l'année 1899 dit que l'Equateur est la véritable patrie des chapeaux désignés à tort, sous le nom de panamas. Si cette fabrication s'est répandue ensuite au Pérou et dans d'autres pays, jusque dans le Yucatan, au Mexique, partout le chapeau dont il s'agit a conservé la dénomination de "jipijapa," du nom de la ville où cette industrie a pris naissance. Ce n'est qu'en Europe, ou, pour mieux dire, en dehors des pays producteurs, que ce chapeau reçoit le nom d'une ville qui ne le fabrique pas.

C'est à Jipijapa et à Montecristi, dans la province de Manibi, qu'on fait les chapeaux les plus fins; cette industrie est même une des grandes ressources de la contrée.

On emploie, à cet effet, la "toquilla" ou feuille d'une petite plante, qui croît en abondance dans la contrée et dont les feuilles semblent sortir du sol en forme d'éventail. Cette plante est le *Carludovica palmata*.

Il y a des jipijapas de toute qualité, depuis celui qui coûte quelques centavos jusqu'à celui qui vaut plusieurs centaines de sucres.

Le mérite de ces derniers, véritables merveilles de finesse, consiste autant dans la rareté de la paille que dans la difficulté du tressage. Ces chapeaux ne se trouvent, d'ailleurs, que très exceptionnellement dans le commerce.

Ceux de vente courante coûtent quelques sucres. Les plus beaux ne dépassent pas le prix de 50 à 60 sucres.

Quand on fait l'achat d'un panama, on doit tâcher de s'assurer de deux choses: que la paille est entière et qu'elle n'est pas gommée.

La première de ces conditions n'est pas facile à reconnaître. Les tisseurs fendent la paille, afin d'en faire deux d'une seule, avec tant de perfection, qu'il faut une grande habitude pour s'en apercevoir. A finesse égale, le chapeau fait de paille entière vaut trois ou quatre fois plus que l'autre.

La seconde condition, celle de la gomme, se reconnaît plus aisément. La gomme a pour but de donner plus de rigidité ou plus de blancheur à la paille. Dans ce dernier cas, elle est accompagnée d'amidon qui en décèle sans peine la présence. La bonne toquilla est assez blanche et assez rigide pour se passer de gomme; aussi n'y a-t-il que les panamas très ordinaires qui soient gommés.

Le jipijapa est d'une solidité à toute épreuve; c'est le chapeau par excellence comme durée, comme finesse, comme légèreté et comme élégance. La forme de ce chapeau, invariablement le même pendant tant d'années, a peut-être nui à sa généralisation, mais si les chapeliers

voulaient se mettre en rapports avec les producteurs, ils obtiendraient toutes les formes qu'ils pourraient désirer pour satisfaire aux caprices de la mode.

## ETATS-UNIS

### COMMERCE EXTÉRIEUR PENDANT LE MOIS DE MARS 1900.

Le commerce extérieur des Etats-Unis pour le mois de mars 1900 montre une augmentation remarquable sur le même mois en 1899. Une analyse de l'augmentation dans les importations montre que presque les deux tiers étaient la valeur d'articles bruts employés dans les industries du pays et montant à plus de 39 pour cent du total. L'augmentation des importations sur celles du mois de mars 1899 était environ de 20 pour cent; le pourcentage des marchandises exemptes des droits de douane étant 46.27 contre 47.36 pour l'année antérieure. Voici les valeurs comparatives des importations comme elles sont classées par le Bureau des Statistiques des Etats-Unis:

#### IMPORTATIONS.

	1900.	1899.
Denrées alimentaires et animaux.....	\$21,834,142	\$22,837,356
Articles bruts entrant dans les différents procédés de l'industrie du pays.....	33,869,075	25,640,080
Articles entièrement ou partiellement manufacturés destinés comme matériaux dans les manufactures et les arts mécaniques.....	7,929,219	5,866,373
Articles manufacturés pour la consommation.....	12,868,074	9,951,249
Articles de luxe.....	9,998,410	8,525,688
Totaux.....	86,498,920	72,820,746

Les rapports complets montrent que pendant le mois de mars 1900 on a exporté la plus grande quantité de marchandises manufacturées qui ait jamais été constatée dans les annales du pays, l'augmentation se montant pour ce seul item à plus de \$8,000,000. Les exportations des farines montrent une diminution dans quelques articles et une augmentation dans quelques autres; prises, cependant, ensemble, les exportations des produits agricoles montrent une augmentation notable. Le nombre de barils de farine exportés était 1,475,724 contre 1,625,605 en mars 1899. On a exporté 6,448,706 barils de blé contre 8,338,999, et il y a eu 39,917 boisseaux de seigle contre 328,070 en 1899. Il y a eu aussi une diminution de 1,500,000 boisseaux dans le nombre des boisseaux de maïs exportés, tandis qu'une augmentation d'environ 500,000 boisseaux était constatée dans la quantité d'avoine expédiée à l'étranger.

Pendant les neuf mois de la présente année fiscale, une augmentation de 41,000,000 boisseaux s'est produite dans le nombre de boisseaux

de blé exportés, et le nombre de boisseaux de maïs exportés a augmenté de 32,000,000 pendant qu'une diminution de 400,000 barils de farine était constatée pendant la même période. La condition actuelle des approvisionnements en Europe semble indiquer que les exportations, pendant le restant de l'année courante, seront au moins égales à celles des quelques mois qui viennent de s'écouler.

Ci-après un tableau comparatif des exportations du mois de mars 1900 et du mois de mars 1899:

## EXPORTATIONS.

	1900.	1899.
Produits agricoles.....	\$77, 936, 395	\$59, 102, 301
Produits des manufactures.....	44, 767, 139	36, 109, 231
Produits des mines.....	3, 573, 349	2, 689, 660
Produits des forêts.....	3, 764, 754	3, 414, 425
Produits des pêches.....	877, 558	327, 122
Produits divers.....	860, 355	606, 717
Totaux.....	131, 779, 550	102, 249, 456
Marchandises étrangères réexportées.....	2, 522, 279	2, 310, 233
Totaux généraux.....	134, 301, 829	104, 559, 689

Les droits de douane perçus pendant le mois de mars 1900 se sont montés à \$22,090,681 contre \$20,933,436 pendant le même mois de 1899.

## RAPPORT OFFICIEL SUR LA RÉCOLTE.

Les Rapports du Statisticien du Ministère de l'Agriculture, publiés le 1<sup>er</sup> mai, montrent qu'à cette date on avait cultivé 26,585,000 acres de blé d'hiver, soit 3,563,000 ou 11.8 pour cent de moins que l'automne dernier. La diminution dans la contenance des principaux Etats, due aux froids rigoureux de l'hiver et aux ravages causés par la mouche hessienne, est comme suit: l'Indiana, 1,608,000 acres; l'Ohio, 969,000 acres; le Michigan, 317,000 acres; la Pennsylvanie, 158,000 acres; et l'Illinois, 187,000 acres. Quant au reste de l'aire cultivée, la condition moyenne à la date du 1<sup>er</sup> mai était 88.9. Quoique cette moyenne soit de 6.2 points au dessus de celle des moyennes des 10 dernières années et n'a été dépassée seulement que 3 fois en 15 ans, il faut cependant ne pas oublier que les statistiques pour les terres labourées, les terres à fourrages, les terres abandonnées, n'ont pas été comprises dans ce rapport (excepté, toutefois, dans la Californie où elles n'ont pas été encore définitivement déterminées). Les grandes moyennes de la condition rapportées le mois dernier pour le Kansas, le Missouri, le Texas et d'autres Etats plus ou moins importants qui produisent le blé et qui ont échappé aux ravages de la mouche, ont été maintenues, et le 1<sup>er</sup> mai on a rapporté que presque la moitié de la contenance cultivée de blé d'hiver se trouve dans des conditions normales, si non meilleures.

La condition moyenne du seigle d'hiver était, le 1<sup>er</sup> mai, 88.5 contre 85.2 le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1899; 94.5 le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1898 et 89.7 la moyenne des

moyennes des mois de mai pour les 10 années passées. Les conditions respectives de la Pennsylvanie et de l'Etat de New-York, avec 42.1 pour cent du rendement total du seigle d'hiver du pays, sont rapportées être 11.4 points au dessous de leurs moyennes de dix années. Le Kansas, qui occupe le troisième rang dans le tableau de la contenance, rapporte la condition moyenne élevée de 107, la plus grande moyenne qui ait jamais été constatée le 1<sup>er</sup> mai.

La condition moyenne des terrains appropriés à la production du foin était au 1<sup>er</sup> mai 90.8 contre 84.9 le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1899; 92.9 le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1898 et 91.3 la moyenne des moyennes des mois de mai des 10 dernières années.

La condition moyenne des pâturages du printemps était 91.3 contre 83.5 le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1899; 91.2 le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1898, et 90.9 la moyenne des moyennes des mois de mai des dix dernières années. Dans presque tous les Etats où il est très important que la terre soit labourée de bonne heure, le labour du printemps est plus où moins en retard. Les seules exceptions notables sont: la Pennsylvanie, le Kentucky, l'Illinois, le Missouri et le Kansas. Les labours qui ont déjà été faits dans tous les pays sont estimés à 68.4 pour cent du total projeté, la proportion labourée ordinairement à la date du 1<sup>er</sup> mai étant environ 75 pour cent. Dans la Caroline du Sud, l'Alabama, le Mississipi et le Texas, les labours sont plus en retard qu'ils n'ont jamais été dans n'importe quelle année.

En conséquence du retard, presque sans exemple, de la saison, le statisticien est incapable de faire, comme à l'ordinaire, l'estimation préliminaire de la nouvelle contenance du coton.

#### AUGMENTATION DANS LA PRODUCTION DU CHARBON.

M. EDWARD W. PARKER, le statisticien du service géologique des Etats-Unis, estime, d'après les chiffres représentant entre 80 et 90 pour cent du tonnage total, que la production du charbon aux Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1899 s'est montée à 258,539,650 petites tonnes, soit une augmentation de 17.5 pour cent environ si on compare cette production avec celle de l'année 1898, quand elle était de 219,974,667 tonnes. M. PARKER a basé ses estimations en compilant les rapports reçus des mines produisant plus de 80 pour cent du tonnage de 1898 et en calculant l'augmentation proportionnelle des mines dont on n'apas encore reçu les rapports.

Ces chiffres excèdent de plus de 15,000,000 tonnes les quantités estimées et publiées jusqu'ici concernant le tonnage du charbon de 1899. La production en 1898 dépassait de presque 20,000,000 tonnes celle de 1897, qui était, à son tour, considérée la meilleure année pour cette industrie. Ces chiffres, comme ils sont estimés ici, peuvent être en quelque sorte réduits, et il n'est pas probable qu'ils augmentent, mais,

en supposant qu'une réduction de 5,000,000 tonnes se produisent, l'erreur dans le total ne monterait pas à 2 pour cent.

Mr. PARKER estime la valeur totale du produit à \$259,435,412, soit une augmentation de \$51,000,000, ou pratiquement 20 pour cent de plus que la valeur du charbon produit en 1898.

La part que l'antracite a prise dans cette production sans exemple, a augmenté de la différence entre les 53,382,644 tonnes produites en 1898 et les 60,320,395 tonnes produites en 1899, avec une augmentation dans la valeur de la différence entre \$75,414,537 et \$88,123,493. La production bitumineuse, y compris les semi-anthracites, les semi-bitumineux, la houille, les blocs de charbon et le lignite montre une augmentation de plus de 31,600,000 tonnes et un gain dans la valeur de près de \$39,000,000.

#### L'INDUSTRIE DU PORC EN 1899 ET EN 1900.

Pendant la saison d'hiver terminée le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1900, le "Cincinnati Price current," un journal dont la spécialité est de collectionner les données concernant l'industrie du porc, rapporte que le nombre de porcs préparés pour le marché dans l'ouest des Etats-Unis, comparé avec celui de l'année précédente, a diminué de 1,044,000, le total général pour la saison étant de 8,675,000. Le poids moyen des porcs tués a augmenté de 3.02 livres et le rendement moyen de lard a augmenté de .44 par livre, le rendement pour cent étant presque identique pour l'année précédente. Le prix moyen des porcs a augmenté de 77 cents par 100 livres, et le prix total a dépassé celui des années précédentes de \$7,971,000, soit une augmentation de 10 pour cent, pendant que le poids total était réduit à 10 pour cent. La production d'hiver des viandes fraîches fut réduite à 121,000,000 livres et celle du lard est représentée par 33,000,000 ou 100,000 tierces. La production du porc salé en baril a été considérablement réduite, cette diminution représentant 59,600 barils de "mess pork" et 37,000 barils d'autres espèces.

Pour les 8 mois de la saison d'été finissant le 1<sup>er</sup> novembre 1899, on a constaté une diminution de 406,000 porcs, le total général étant 13,525,000. Pendant cette saison, il y a eu une légère augmentation dans le poids moyen; une augmentation de 2.42 livres par porc dans le rendement du lard; une augmentation de 15 cents par 100 livres dans le prix des porcs, portant ainsi la valeur totale à \$1,191,000 au dessus de la valeur du plus grand nombre pour l'année précédente. La production des viandes fraîches pendant l'été a diminué de 52,000,000 livres, pendant que la production du lard a augmenté de 19,000,000 livres ou 58,000 tierces. La production du "mess pork" a diminué de 6,000 barils et celle des autres espèces de porc de 22,000 barils. Pour les 12 mois finissant le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1900, on a constaté une diminution de 1,450,000 porcs dans cette industrie des Etats de l'ouest, le total général montant à 22,200,000. La production totale



des viandes fraîches a diminué de 173,000,000 livres; le lard a diminué de 14,000,000 livres ou 42,000 tierces, et la valeur totale s'est montée à \$213,000,000, soit une augmentation de \$9,000,000.

### RECENSEMENT DU BÉTAIL.

Le bétail des Etats-Unis recevra une attention toute spéciale dans le 12<sup>ème</sup> recensement qui commencera le 1<sup>er</sup> juin 1900. Jusqu'ici le bétail dans les fermes et dans les prairies a été seulement dénombrés sur les tableaux, mais les autres bestiaux ont été omis. Cette omission ne permet pas de donner le chiffre exact d'une des sources les plus importantes de la richesse nationale. Pour faire disparaître cette difficulté, le Congrès a passé une loi, ratifiée le 19 février 1900, autorisant le Directeur du Recensement de recueillir les renseignements concernant le nombre et espèces de bestiaux qui ne se trouvent pas dans les fermes. Dans ce but, un tableau spécial a été préparé par le Bureau de Recensement et sur lequel tout le bétail qui ne se trouve pas dans les fermes ou les prairies mais qui loge dans les étables sera mentionné. En combinant les résultats de ce tableau avec ceux des fermes, le Bureau de Recensement obtiendra des données complètes et correctes du bétail et de sa condition.

Les animaux seront classés quant à l'âge un peu comme les peuples le sont, mais cependant avec beaucoup moins de détail. Dans le tableau spécial, la race bovine est classée en animaux qui ont moins d'un an et ceux qui ont plus d'une année. La deuxième classe est divisée en bouvillons, taureaux, vaches; les bouvillons étant subdivisés en ceux âgés d'un an et moins de deux ans; deux ans et moins de trois ans et plus de trois ans; les vaches étant classées en celles qui ont un an et moins de deux ans et celles qui ont plus de deux ans, ces dernières étant subdivisées en celles qui produisent le lait et gardées dans ce but et celles qui n'en donnent pas. Il y a trois subdivisions de chevaux et de mules; ceux ou celles qui ont un an; ceux ou celles qui ont plus d'un an et moins de deux ans, et ceux ou celles qui ont plus de deux ans. L'espèce ovine est classée en animaux ayant moins d'un an et plus d'un an, en distinguant dans la dernière classe, les brebis, les béliers et les moutons. Les autres animaux, c'est à dire, les ânes, les bourriquets, les porcs et les chèvres ne sont pas classés par âge.

Le but, en groupant ainsi les animaux, est de donner quelques bases permettant d'estimer l'augmentation probable des mules, du bétail et des moutons dans un futur très rapproché. Ce nouveau système de recensement du bétail qui ne se trouve pas dans les fermes ou les prairies donnera une idée de l'étendue de cette industrie du pays.

### REVENUS INTÉRIEURS POUR LE MOIS DE MARS 1900.

Le rapport du mois de mars du Directeur des Contributions Indirectes des Etats-Unis montre que le total des revenus intérieurs pendant

le dit mois s'est monté à \$24,326,677, soit une augmentation de \$1,588,228 sur ceux du mois de mars 1899. Les recettes provenant des différentes sources de revenus étaient comme suit: Alcools, \$9,607,599, soit une augmentation de \$647,429; tabac, \$5,348,429, soit une augmentation de \$854,662; liqueurs fermentées, \$5,180,852, soit une augmentation de \$213,299; oléomargarine, \$225,162, soit une augmentation de \$58,457; recettes spéciales non mentionnées, \$21,374, soit une diminution de \$19,276; divers, \$3,943,258, soit une diminution de \$166,345.

#### **FABRICATION DE LA MONNAIE PENDANT LE MOIS DE MARS 1900.**

Pendant le mois de mars 1900, l'Hôtel de la Monnaie a frappé la plus grande quantité de monnaies qui ait jamais été atteinte dans n'importe quel mois depuis le mois de janvier 1899, quand le monnayage se montait à 19,705,590 dollars, toutes les pièces étant en or à l'exception de \$1,642,000 en argent. Pendant le mois de mars 1900, le total s'élevait à \$17,075,688.32, la monnaie d'or frappée se montant à \$12,596,280, toutes les pièces étant des doubles aigles (20 dollars) à l'exception de \$1.480.

Le total de la monnaie d'argent se montait à \$4,341,375.70, pendant que la monnaie de nickel s'élevait à \$104,593.85 et que celle du bronze, chaque pièce valant un cent, atteignait une valeur de \$33,478.77. Pendant les neuf mois de la présente année fiscale, y compris le mois de mars 1900, la monnaie frappée par les Hôtels de la Monnaie des Etats-Unis représente une valeur de \$106,732,213.84.

#### **CÉRÉALES DANS LES PHILIPPINES.**

Les seules céréales cultivées dans les Philippines sont le maïs et le riz, cette dernière céréale étant de beaucoup la plus importante des deux, car elle est le principal aliment des natifs qui souffrent horriblement quand ils en manquent. Plusieurs variétés de riz sont cultivées dans ces îles, différant plus ou moins les unes les autres par la saveur, la couleur et la dimension des grains. Le "Mismis" est la variété la plus connue et le "Malagquit" est une autre espèce qui est d'une nature extraordinairement glutineuse et dont on emploie la farine pour faire de la pâtisserie. En en plantant deux variétés, l'une qui mûrit rapidement et l'autre qui mûrit plus lentement, on peut faire deux récoltes en un an. Le prix courant du riz dans la balle est d'environ 60 ou 65 cents le boisseau, tandis que le riz égrené se paye de 90 cents à 1 dollar le boisseau.

La production annuelle du riz dans les Philippines est en moyenne d'environ 36,000,000 boisseaux, mais cette quantité est loin de satisfaire aux besoins actuels de la population. Afin de suppléer à la quantité manquante on a eu l'habitude d'importer ce produit des autres pays

produisant le riz, la Cochinchine française étant la principale source d'approvisionnement. Pendant quelques années, la quantité de riz importée à Manille s'est montée à plus de 3,200,000 boisseaux, ayant une valeur de \$2,000,000 environ.

Dans plusieurs provinces des Philippines, comme, par exemple, dans les provinces de "Cayagan" et de "La Isabella," Île de Luzon, les habitants se nourrissent principalement de maïs qui, à part le tabac, est la seule plante qui y soit cultivée. Généralement le maïs n'est pas consommé en si grande quantité dans les autres parties de l'Archipel et on n'en importe à peine.

### L'ÎLE DE GUAM.

Un rédacteur du "Leslie's Weekly" cite quelques faits qu'on peut présumer être dignes de foi et qui ont rapport aux nouvelles possessions insulaires des Etats-Unis dans le Pacifique. L'Île de Guam, écrit ce rédacteur, a une population de 8,000 habitants environ, dont 3,000 résident à Agana, capitale de cette île. Cette ville est bâtie autour d'un beau port de mer, San Luis d'Apra, dont l'entrée a 3 milles de largeur. Un navire y fait son entrée une fois en moyenne en trois mois, le port étant généralement absolument désert. Cependant, quand ces occasions se présentent, les natifs trafiquent les produits de leur pays tels que le café, le cacao, l'ananas, le coco, etc., pour des vêtements et autres articles dont ils ont besoin. On dit que les natifs font de bons marins et on rapporte que 3,000 environ abandonnent leur pays pour s'embarquer sur des navires, laissant un grand pourcentage de femmes comme résidentes permanentes. Il y a dans l'île suffisamment de buffles pour faire le petit travail requis. Le principal bois que produit le pays est l'ifel qui est d'un rouge foncé, très dur, approchant du teck et de qualités tellement durables qu'il est très apprécié comme bois de construction. Aucun journal n'est publié dans l'Île de Guam, qui ne possède que 14 chevaux et qu'une seule bonne route qui s'étend de la côte à la capitale.

### NOUVELLES DE PORTO RICO.

Le 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1900, M. CHARLES HERBERT ALLEN, ancien sous-secrétaire d'Etat de la Marine des Etats-Unis, a été installé à San Juan comme Gouverneur de Porto Rico. Les cérémonies qui eurent lieu à cette occasion produisirent une vive impression, et le Gouverneur prononça un discours dans lequel il souhaita au nom des Etats-Unis la bienvenue aux habitants de l'île. Depuis l'acquisition de cette île, le gouvernement a été purement militaire.

A partir du 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1900, les articles suivants en entrepôt, ainsi que tous les autres produits compris dans le tableau B du décret du 13 juin sur les revenus de la guerre, ne pourront être importés sans le

paiement de droits, et ni les uns ni les autres ne bénéficieront d'aucun rabais: Spiritueux distillés, alambics et serpentins, tabac à priser, cigares, cigarettes, liqueurs fermentées, cartes à jouer, farine, margarine, articles pharmaceutiques patentés, médecines et vins en bouteille.

Le Ministère des finances des Etats-Unis a décidé que les passages, d'aller et de retour, pour Porto Rico seraient exempts des droits de timbre établis pendant la guerre.

### L'INDUSTRIE DE LA SARDINE.

Après la France, les Etats-Unis sont les plus grands acheteurs de sardines du monde. En 1899, la consommation s'est montée à 2,000,000 caisses, ou 200,000,000 boîtes. De cette quantité, 1,400,000 caisses provenaient de l'Etat du Maine; 150,000 caisses de la Californie, et 450,000 caisses étaient importées de France. Il y a trente ans, toutes les sardines consommées aux Etats-Unis étaient achetées en France; aujourd'hui, presque les trois quarts sont préparées dans les 51 fabriques de conserves alimentaires qui existent dans l'Etat du Maine. Ces maisons emploient 6,000 ouvriers.

Dans le Maine, on pêche les sardines sur les rivages occidentaux de la rivière Sainte-Croix et de la baie Passamaquoddy. La saison de la pêche commence dans les premiers jours de mai et dure jusque vers la fin de l'automne. Les poissons sont pris dans des nasses ressemblant ordinairement à des filets de pêche ordinaires dans lesquels ils sont amorcés. Quand les filets sont pleins de poissons, des quantités d'écaillés flottent sur la surface de l'eau; les filets sont alors retirés de l'eau et le poisson qu'ils contiennent, déposés dans des bateaux de pêcheurs. Une pêche ordinaire de sardines donne généralement à chaque bateau de 2,000 à 6,000 poissons, coûtant de \$2 à \$2.50 le mille. Quand les sardines arrivent dans les fabriques de conserves alimentaires, le poisson est nettoyé soigneusement, classé suivant la dimension et salé. La longueur du temps requis pour cette opération dépend de la grosseur du poisson. Les sardines sont ensuite lavées et placées avec soin sur des filets faits de fils de métaux appelés grils, sur lesquels elles sont envoyées dans des séchoirs ou elles sont séchées au moyen de ventilateurs mûs par des machines puissantes. Une fois sèches, quoique toujours sur les grils, on les fait cuire en les plongeant dans des cuves qui contiennent de l'huile d'olive bouillante. Lorsqu'elles sont cuites, on les fait refroidir, et quand elles sont froides, on les place dans des boîtes en fer blanc que l'on remplit ensuite d'huile d'olive, de tomate ou de sauce à la moutarde. Les boîtes sont alors soudées, étiquetées et mises dans des caisses pouvant en contenir chacune 100, et enfin expédiées sur les marchés. De grandes quantités de sardines des Etats-Unis sont exportées dans les Indes Occidentales et dans les pays de l'Amérique du Sud.

**FABRICATION DU PAPIER AVEC DE LA PAILLE DE LIN.**

Ce genre de fabrication n'a pu être entrepris jusqu'ici sur une vaste échelle, faute de matière première en quantités suffisantes. D'après une information reproduite par le "Handelsmuseum" de Vienne, la société anglaise, "FRENCH HICKMANN FIBRE CO.," construirait actuellement près des chutes du Niagara, sur la rive canadienne, une usine pour la production journalière de 10 tonnes de pâte de papier de paille de lin. La succursale qui a été établie à Fargo dans l'ouest des Etats-Unis, et dont nous avons parlé dans le BULLETIN MENSUEL du mois d'avril 1900, page 741, préparerait la paille de lin récoltée dans la région et l'expédierait à Niagara Falls. La société aurait l'espoir de pouvoir livrer dès cette année aux fabriques la pâte desséchée sous forme de feuilles. La paille de lin contient plus de matières grasses que celle provenant d'autres plantes, ce qui rend plus difficile sa transformation en pâte. L'inventeur du procédé aurait réussi à obvier à cet inconvénient en chauffant sous forte pression la paille préalablement hachée, avec une solution contenant de  $\frac{1}{2}$  à 5 parties de soufre et 100 parties de soude caustique.

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**MEXIQUE.****CRÉATION D'UNE AGENCE COMMERCIALE ITALIENNE.**

On annonce la prochaine création, à Mexico, d'une agence commerciale italienne, fondée sous les auspices de plusieurs chambres de commerce d'Italie. Cette agence aurait pour but de supprimer certains intermédiaires dans la vente des produits mexicains en Italie.

**PLACEMENTS DE CAPITAUX ALLEMANDS DANS L'AMÉRIQUE LATINE.**

L'expansion du capital allemand dans l'Amérique Latine est fort considérable.

D'une récente enquête officielle, il résulte que 200,000,000 de marks sont engagés au Vénézuéla; 100,000,000 dans la Colombie; 100 à 120,000,000 au Pérou et dans la République de l'Equateur; 270 à 300,000,000 au Chili. La République Argentine intervient dans la liste pour 600,000,000; l'Uruguay et le Paraguay pour 100,000,000. Pour le Brésil, les chiffres de l'enquête sont de 600,000,000, tandis que les renseignements commerciaux donnent 350,000,000 seulement. Les chemins de fer interviennent pour une grande part. Toute l'Amérique du Sud sur la côte orientale, emploie de 1 à 1,500,000,000 de marks. Les maisons de commerce allemandes ont un capital de 200,000,000 dans la République

Argentine. Dans la ville et dans la province de Buenos Ayres, on compte 500 compagnies allemandes avec 154,000,000 de capital. L'industrie allemande travaille à Buenos Ayres avec 6,500,000. Les propriétés foncières sont évaluées à 160,000,000. Dans la province de Mendoza, 150 hectares de vignobles donnent un bénéfice net annuel de 45,000 marks. Au Paraguay, sur 17,000 étrangers, il y a 12,500 allemands. Les propriétés allemandes dans l'Uruguay et le Paraguay valent 13,000,000. A Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo et Rio Grande do Sul, il y a 117 maisons allemandes ayant un capital de 150,000,000.

Au Mexique sont engagés 200,000,000; dans l'Amérique Centrale, Guatémala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Salvador et Honduras, 250,000,000; dans les Antilles 250,000,000, y compris Cuba avec 150,000,000.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHIE.

Les livres et les brochures qui seront envoyés au Bureau des Républiques Américaines, et qui contiendront des sujets ou matières traitant des pays de l'Union internationale des Républiques Américaines, seront mentionnés dans le Bulletin Mensuel sous le titre "Bibliographie."

Messieurs J. B. BAILLIÈRE ET FILS, éditeurs à Paris, viennent de publier 1 volume in-8° de 200 pages, avec 97 figures, dont l'auteur est Mr. DENAÏFFE et qui a pour titre: "Les Pois Potagers."

L'auteur de cet ouvrage possède à fond les connaissances théoriques et pratiques relatives à la production des graines, à la culture maraîchère et à la grande culture, et le livre qu'il vient d'écrire en est la preuve. Il est, en effet, difficile d'imaginer une monographie plus complète et plus détaillée que celle que Mr. DENAÏFFE présente aujourd'hui à propos des pois potagers. Dans le premier chapitre, l'auteur décrit la variété type "*Pisum sativum*" et insiste particulièrement sur la graine; il indique ensuite la division qu'il suivra dans l'étude des pois; ceux-ci sont répartis en "pois à écosser," dont la gousse est dure et indigeste, et en "pois sans parchemin," dont la cosse est comestible; chacune de ces classes est subdivisée, d'après la taille, en pois nains, de 20 à 45 centimètres, demi-nains, de 55 centimètres à 1 mètre, et en pois à rames, de 75 centimètres à 2<sup>m</sup> 50. L'auteur aborde alors la nomenclature des principales variétés de chacune de ces divisions; il en donne la description accompagnée d'une figure, le poids du litre, le rendement, les époques de floraison et de récolte, etc. Chaque chapitre est terminé par un tableau résumant les notions relatives à chaque espèce et par un second tableau qui permet, étant données des graines, de déterminer la variété à laquelle elles appartiennent.

Les chapitres suivants sont consacrés à l'étude de la culture des pois potagers (culture normale et culture forcée); les façons culturales, la date des semis, etc., y sont indiquées; on trouve ensuite la valeur alimentaire du grain, soit au point de vue des conserves, soit comme fourrage vert ou sec; puis viennent la composition et les exigences des pois, leur germination anticipée ou normale; enfin le livre se termine par l'indication des maladies et des animaux nuisibles pouvant atteindre les plantes, et des remèdes à leur opposer.

Présenté avec soin, agrémenté de 97 figures et de nombreux tableaux, conçu dans un esprit éminemment pratique, l'ouvrage de M. DENAÏFFE sera des plus utiles, non seulement aux grainetiers et aux maraîchers, mais aussi aux cultivateurs, dont beaucoup n'hésitent pas à alimenter leurs bestiaux au moyen de pois, dont la grande puissance nutritive est des plus avantageuses au point de vue de l'engraisement.

Les charbons britanniques et leur épuisement.—“ Recherches sur la puissance du Royaume-Uni de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande; ” tel est le titre d'un ouvrage en 2 volumes, raisin, de plus de 1,200 pages, avec cartes, plans, coupes, graphiques et tableaux qui vient de paraître à la Librairie polytechnique de Ch. BÉRANGER, 15, rue des Saints-Pères, Paris.

Sans accorder aux causes physiques la prépondérance sur les causes morales dans le développement et la grandeur des nations, l'auteur, Mr. Ed. LOZÉ, en constate l'influence et, après avoir attribué une action prépondérante au fer et au charbon, il consacre à ce dernier ses principaux développements, pour ne traiter du fer que dans ses rapports avec la grande industrie houillère. Mr. LOZÉ a groupé les résultats des recherches sur la houille en quatre parties.

1°. Les généralités, comprenant un aperçu géographique des Iles Britanniques, des données historiques et géologiques, des considérations politiques, sociales et économiques et des statistiques.

2°. La description de chacun des bassins houillers du Royaume, de leurs veines et produits, avec un chapitre sur les richesses houillères coloniales.

3°. La géographie industrielle et commerciale, les transports par eau et par voie ferrée et les principaux centres d'activité, en ce qui concerne les parties les plus intéressantes, comprises dans les bassins houillers, puissants générateurs de forces à bon marché, et leurs extensions.

4°. La supputation des richesses houillères du Royaume avec les prévisions sur leur épuisement.

Cet ensemble est suivi d'un appendice traitant de matières connexes au sujet ou s'y rattachant. L'auteur expose aussi des données sur l'historique de la découverte et de l'exploitation des bassins houillers

de la Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande et fournit des indications sur les bassins des colonies britanniques; il suppute l'importance des richesses houillères, en décrit la nature chimique et en signale les applications. Cet ouvrage comprend aussi des statistiques sur le développement de la production, de l'exportation, de la consommation intérieure, etc. Parallèlement, l'auteur constate le développement de l'industrie et du commerce et montre les centres qui étonnent le monde, surgissant dans les bassins houillers et leur voisinage. Une étude détaillée des principaux fleuves et rivières, de leurs améliorations et prolongements, les canaux, ainsi que du réseau des voies ferrées, fait apprécier l'importance des organes d'une circulation correspondant à une production intensive.

Après avoir passé en revue les influences économiques, l'auteur montre l'état des moyens d'action dont disposent le Royaume et l'Empire britanniques.

Dië Kautschukpflanzen und ihre Cultur (Les plantes à caoutchouc et leur culture, par le Dr. O. WARBURG, avec 9 gravures), Kolonial Wirtschaftliches Komitee, Berlin.

L'auteur, dans cet ouvrage, traite de la question de la production du caoutchouc, et consacre un chapitre spécial à chacune des plantes qui produisent, en grande quantité, le caoutchouc. Para, castillan, ceara mangabeira sont des caoutchoucs américains qui sont encore de beaucoup la source la plus importante du précieux produit. Le Dr. O. WARBURG consacre un chapitre à l'histoire des caoutchoucs africains, et fait un exposé clair et précis des données les plus récentes sur les plantes productrices des diverses régions africaines. Un chapitre est consacré aux diverses sortes de gommés fournies par les ficus et une dernière partie traite divers végétaux caoutchouquifères encore peu connus ou peu exploités.

Chaque plante étudiée est l'objet d'une description botanique soignée (avec analyse des principaux organes). Des détails suffisants sont donnés sur la répartition des vaisseaux laticifères dans les divers membres de la plante, les procédés de récolte et de coagulation du latex; une part importante est réservée aux données relatives aux exigences culturales, aux essais d'acclimatation des végétaux à caoutchouc de première importance. Ces données sont assez complètes pour permettre aux personnes intéressées dans cette culture, d'acquiescer une idée précise des avantages et des inconvénients présentés par la culture de tel ou tel producteur sous un climat et dans un sol déterminés.

"Der Kautschuk und seine Quellen," par le Dr. ROBERT HENRIQUES, 1 brochure in-8°, 31 pages, 5 tableaux, 4 cartes.

Cette courte monographie contient un exposé succinct, mais méthodique, des connaissances actuelles sur la production du caoutchouc. Elle



est la reproduction de deux conférences données par l'auteur à Berlin; l'une à l'Association des chimistes allemands, l'autre à la Société polytechnique allemande. Elle comprend deux parties: La première expose les divers procédés de récolte dans les principales régions d'origine, résume les données relatives aux plantes productives et traite des transactions commerciales en usage pour les diverses sortes.

La deuxième partie de cette publication est la plus intéressante parce qu'elle réunit sous forme de tableaux synoptiques, et pour chaque pays producteur de caoutchouc, les noms commerciaux et indigènes des diverses sortes, la source botanique, les propriétés les plus saillantes de chaque qualité, le prix moyen au kilogramme et la teneur en substances résineuses. Cinq tableaux se trouvent consacrés aux caoutchoucs: de l'Amérique méridionale et centrale, de l'Afrique, de l'Asie et de l'Océanie. Quatre cartes abrégées se trouvent à la fin de la brochure; elles indiquent, d'une façon très claire, toutes les localités intéressantes pour la production et l'exportation du caoutchouc dans le monde.

"Riparian Lands of the Mississippi River," tel est le titre d'un ouvrage richement illustré, préparé par M. F. H. TOMPKINS. L'auteur consacre cette œuvre à l'histoire du pays situé le long du plus grand fleuve qui se trouve au nord de l'Hémisphère Occidental et aux grands amas d'eau qui le dévastent, et cite les efforts que fait le peuple afin de se protéger contre les inondations destructives. L'histoire des levées qui sont les batardeaux ou les digues construites pour contenir l'effort des eaux, est une des narrations les plus intéressantes qui ait jamais été faite du combat acharné entre l'homme et les forces puissantes de la nature. Elle peut se comparer à l'histoire des luttes interminables du peuple hollandais contre les flots, les flux et reflux de la mer du Nord. Le sujet est traité non seulement au point de vue historique, mais encore à celui d'un ingénieur dont la science et les connaissances ont été employées dans de vastes entreprises.

Mr. HAWTHORNE HILL vient de publier, dans l' "Electrical Review" (New York) du 7 mars 1900, un article relatif à l'approvisionnement de "gutta percha." La compétence de Mr. HILL sur ce sujet est indiscutable et donne, à son opinion, une valeur toute particulière.

La construction d'un câble Pacifique, tel qu'il est proposé, des Etats-Unies aux Iles Sandwich, avec une prolongation future jusqu'à l'Ile de Guam et les Iles Philippines, dépendra largement de la possibilité de se procurer la quantité de gutta percha requise. Mr. HILL est d'avis qu'il y en aura assez et donne à ce sujet quelques statistiques. Le câble en question aura au moins 7,500 milles de long et requerra pour l'isolement 400 livres de gutta percha par mille, soit un total général de 1,500 tonnes.

The "American Newspaper Annual," publié par N. W. AYER & SON de Philadelphie, contient pour 1890 une liste des publications périodiques de Puerto Rico, Cuba et autres Iles des Antilles, ainsi que celles des Iles Sandwich. Cette liste alphabétique de tous les journaux et publications périodiques paraissant dans chaque place de tous les Etats et Territoires des Etats-Unis, aussi bien que dans les provinces du Canada, est très connue. Les renseignements donnés en ce qui concerne les journaux, ainsi que la population des villes et des pays où ils sont publiés, sont de la plus grande valeur pour les courtiers d'annonces, mais les listes où sont classées les publications littéraires, religieuses, scientifiques, médicales, agricoles, etc., sont aussi très précieuses comme renseignements dans les bibliothèques et les bureaux des éditeurs.

"Reise durch das Flussgebiet des Rio Ipané" (Voyage à travers la vallée de la rivière Ipane), tel est le titre d'un ouvrage dont M. le Capitaine LUDWIG JERMANN est l'auteur, et qui vient d'être publié par la maison L. FRIEDERICHSEN & Co., Hambourg 1899. C'est une brochure de 21 pages avec une carte originale et qui est la reproduction d'un rapport de la Société géographique de Hambourg (vol. xv, 1899). L'auteur y décrit en détail un voyage de trois mois à travers ce territoire brésilien, et quoiqu'il borne principalement son récit à ses expériences et ses aventures personnelles, ce qu'il relate est cependant du plus grand intérêt et donne une bonne idée des conditions du pays.

Le Musée Commercial de Philadelphie vient de publier une brochure sur la marine marchande des Etats-Unis qu'il compare à celle des autres pays. Cette publication contient quelques statistiques très importantes et d'autres sujets relatifs à l'augmentation de la Marine Marchande du monde.

# MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

International Union of American Republics.

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VOL. VIII.

JUNE, 1900.

No. 6.

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## ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

### PRESIDENT ROCA'S MESSAGE.

At the opening session of the National Congress on May 1, 1900, President ROCA read his annual message, the tone of which created a favorable impression throughout the country. The following paragraphs are translations of extracts (more particularly with reference to the finances) from this document:

“The revenue during the year has been satisfactory, the total receipts being \$45,676,188 gold and \$61,419,990 currency, showing an increase over 1898 of \$11,797,923 gold and \$11,675,776 currency, or a total of \$38,480,238 of the latter. Even if the receipts from the extra taxes voted in August, 1898, be deducted from this, there is still a remarkable progress in the revenue that has surpassed all calculations. The ordinary revenue from import duties was \$28,388,261 gold, or \$1,978,261 over the estimates, while it exceeded that of 1898 by \$1,596,790 gold. The returns from this same source in the first quarter of 1900 are \$8,767,163, or \$1,259,285 over last year. Export, storage, light-house and other dues show \$700,000 over the estimates.

“The receipts from inland taxation continue to increase. The receipts have exceeded the estimates by \$6,293,409 currency and \$31,832 gold. The estimate of \$20,000,000 from the alcoholic tax had no solid basis, as the Executive called attention to at the time. In comparison with other countries, an average individual consumption of four liters for this Republic, where alcoholism only exists on a small scale, is exaggerated, and it can not exceed 17,000,000 liters. Last year this tax yielded \$13,625,590, but to accurately gauge this

the perturbation caused by the new system and the stock on hand must be taken into account, yet the receipts were \$6,081,829 over those of 1898.

“The consumption is now settling down, and the revenue from it in the first quarter of 1900 is \$4,095,224, which shows that it will yield this year the \$16,000,000 estimated. I think we should maintain a system which has been adopted by the most progressive nations, and which has proved beneficial both for the revenue and the public health in all those countries.

“The relative permanence which you gave to the Tributary Laws, on the initiative of the Executive, will, in my opinion, produce excellent financial, economic, and political results. \* \* \*

“The budget for 1899 authorized an expenditure of \$101,292,399 currency and \$26,453,972 gold; but only \$96,068,365 currency and \$21,481,378 gold have been spent, according to the Accountant-General's returns, so there is a saving of \$5,134,033 currency and \$4,972,594 gold, or \$16,435,385 currency in all. The expenditures authorized by special laws were \$9,310,072 gold and \$8,837,355 currency. These large amounts will not surprise you if you bear in mind that the first includes \$4,400,000 in 4 per cent bonds for the recision of the contract with the Transandine Railway, \$3,928,104 for armament, \$453,000 for an old account due by the Post-Office, and \$160,584 for the Naval Commissariat. All these amounts represent old debts. The rest has been spent for dredges and other small items. As for the currency figure, its chief items are \$1,480,000 for differences on exchange of Treasury bills taken by the insurance companies for popular loan bonds at 80, \$1,200,000 for locust extinction, \$673,000 for extension of the salubrity work, \$500,000 for the ‘Sociedad de Beneficencia,’ and sundry other small expenses. \* \* \*

“Deducting the amounts paid in both gold and currency for debts in arrears, there is a considerable surplus, which, with the increase of the revenue, has greatly relieved the Treasury. The rate of exchange has been so favorable to the country that the dealings of the Finance Office have left a profit of \$259,146 gold.

“Up to the present time, I have succeeded in suppressing sundry items of expenditure to the amount of \$3,500,000 in the present budget, and I shall continue to suppress all unnecessary outlay.

“For years there existed a double service of coast guard worked by the ‘Resguardos de Aduana’ (guards detailed from the regular army), and the Subprefecturas (civil guards). I have amalgamated them and put at the head a chief endowed with the necessary competence and energy to control efficiently such a vast department. This amalgamation, which means an economy of \$700,000, has been effected without detriment to service and without hitch. In like manner I have reorganized the Inland Revenue Department. \* \* \*

“The Treasury’s payments during the year were \$213,687,113 currency and \$34,201,146 gold. The remittances to the Argentine Legation in London to cover debt service and other items amounted to \$28,864,600 gold.

“The Government has withdrawn 287,806 shares of the 300,000 of the Banco Nacional, leaving a small balance of 2,194 shares not yet presented.

“The currency in circulation, including the fractional, was \$295,-149,731 on December 31, 1899. Of the \$5,200,000 in nickel coins authorized by law \$3,823,468 worth have been issued, the balance being held by the Caja de Conversión. The mint is now printing the bank notes which are to take the place of those actually in use.

“The Banco de la Nación continues in its good work and progressive march. The constant increase in deposits, which now stand at over \$90,000,000, show the credit it enjoys. There has been an increase of \$154,000,000 paper and \$45,000,000 gold. \* \* \*

“The foreign debt of the nation is now \$386,004,118 gold, and the internal funded debt \$105,951,300 paper and \$6,375,000 gold. From the above there is to be deducted \$46,120,003 gold, corresponding to bonds issued for settlement of the debts of Buenos Ayres, Santa Fé, and Entre Rios, the service of which is or will be made by the Provinces; \$31,980,135 gold in bonds belonging to the nation deposited in London; \$7,609,998 gold in bonds delivered on account of arrangements between the Banco Nacional on one part and L. Cohen & Son and Disconto Gesellschaft, of Berlin, on the other, the service thereof being made by the bank, and \$7,200,000 paper in bonds of the funded internal debt which are held by the Treasury. The debt, therefore, weighing directly on the country is, foreign, \$300,203,982 gold, and, internal, \$6,375,000 gold and \$98,929,000 paper.

“From the 12th October, 1898, to the 15th April, 1900, arrears to the amount of \$10,031,226 gold and \$22,719,065 paper have been paid off, so that the claims in this regard at present are represented by \$914,768 gold and \$2,401,177 paper. Treasury bills in circulation are estimated at \$14,214,088 gold and \$1,823,938 paper, including \$4,536,000 gold issued to guarantee credits opened.

“The balance due for armament purchased is \$4,500,000, more or less, of which \$3,000,000 will be paid in bills at one, two, or three years, and the balance on delivery. \* \* \*

“The Finance Minister has at his disposal in Europe \$12,500,000 gold. Apart from \$31,980,135 gold in public-debt bonds in London, the Treasury holds \$9,591,154 paper and \$226,395 gold in bills received on account of land sales, as well as \$7,200,000 paper in home-debt bonds. \* \* \*

“The past year has been one of liquidation. In sympathy with the aspirations of the country, the expressed will of Congress, and follow-

ing up the purpose I outlined to you when I took office, aiming at the settlement of all the debts, National and Provincial, which came to us as a legacy, as a means toward raising the credit of the nation at any cost, I have great pleasure in informing you that that liquidation has come to a conclusion. During the year the foreign debts of Córdoba, Sante Fé, Entre Rios, Corrientes, Tucumán, San Luis, and Catamarca have been settled. The nation has also definitely arranged the railway guaranties and helped the Province of Santa Fé to arrange the obligations contracted in the construction of its railways. \* \* \*

“Freed from debt, the Provinces can devote their time now to the development of industries. The amount of bonds issued in this regard is \$85,999,499 gold national 4 per cents. \* \* \*

“The public finance is relieved from pressure. We have liquidated, then, all the past and removed from the path of the national finances all obstructions and difficulties, and therefore we shall no longer have to follow a hand-to-mouth policy, ignorant of what a day may bring forth.

“The most important act \* \* \* in fixing a new course for national finances was undoubtedly the ‘Monetary Law of November 4, 1899.’ [See MONTHLY BULLETIN for March, 1900, p. 389.—Ed.] Its execution has demonstrated conclusively its efficacy and has given general satisfaction. Since August 31, when the bill was presented, the variations in the quotations of gold have been insignificant, and during the last two months the price has remained immovable at the rate fixed by law. \* \* \*

“Everything leads to the belief that the fixed rate will be sustained, and even though it should suffer some fluctuations, not much time will elapse before it has acquired the necessary solidity. The natural forces of the country, the increase of production, the development of commerce, the conversion fund, and the determination of the public powers to aid the economic situation in every possible way will contribute to the maintaining of that rate without alteration. Every one acknowledges that the agricultural and pastoral industries were saved from enormous losses by the opportune passing of the law at the commencement of a great harvest representing more than \$200,000,000 gold, and it is impossible to calculate the injury to the country which would have been occasioned by the fall in rates produced by the influx of so much gold, and aided by speculation. The effect of the law immediately after its promulgation was to alleviate the precarious monetary situation of the country, and the rate fixed, to which all are alike subject, has reduced the paper currency to \$126,197,235 gold.

“The consolidation produced by the law in the state of things created by momentary phenomena, and the definite fixing of the rate of exchange according to the real value of the inconvertible currency, have been effected without perturbation or actual losses, and without injury to private interests. The amortization of more than

\$160,000,000 paper currency, realized for the benefit of the country by virtue of this law, is of very slight importance compared with the immense advantage of giving to contracts a fixed basis of calculation; to commerce, industry, and enterprise a fixed measure of value, and to all the economic relations the security required for their development. A stable money is a powerful instrument for expansion and progress. It is the firmest basis of transactions, promotes enterprise, and insures confidence in all commercial relations. We who have lived for so many years under the régime of paper money do not fully realize the great conquest we have made.

"The fund destined for the conversion of the paper currency already exceeds \$3,200,000 gold, of which a fourth part has been remitted by the bank of the nation in drafts to Europe. \* \* \*

"Twenty students have been sent to the United States and Canada to devote themselves to the study of agriculture and industry. Primary instruction has made notable progress, especially in the capital. \* \* \*

"Live stock, which continues to represent our principal industry, is being constantly improved, and particularly as regards a betterment by breeding. \* \* \*

"The last crop of cereals has been so abundant that it has enabled us to figure as the third exporting nation in the markets of the world. There were exported last year 1,700,000 tons of wheat, and during the first three months of this year 695,000 tons. \* \* \*

"The value of importations during the year was \$116,850,671 gold, the exportations being \$184,917,531 gold, leaving a balance in favor of the nation of \$68,066,860 gold, an amount larger than that obtained at any previous time, and which exceeds that of 1898 by \$36,000,000 gold. \* \* \*

"The exportation of home products, which represents the results of national industry, shows an increase, in 1899, of more than \$48,088,000 gold over that of 1898, an amount which indicates great progress in our production." \* \* \*

#### EXPORTS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1900.

According to statistics published recently, the exports of agricultural and stock-raising products from the Argentine Republic were as follows during the first quarter of the current year:

Ox and cow hides, dry, 383,519; same, salted, 183,005; horse hides, salted, 7,425; same, dry, 22,959; sheepskins, 10,558 bales; horsehair, 790 bales; tallow, 34,875 casks; goatskins, 606 bales; wool, 147,677 bales; frozen wethers, 394,899; wheat, 694,543 tons; corn, 122,063 tons; linseed, 147,308 tons; flour, 3,478 tons; bran, 14,967 tons; pollards, 33,615 bags; oil seed, 28,361 bags; hay, 732,414 bales; quebracho wood, 45,567 tons; tobacco, 720 bales; butter, 16,840 cases.

These products were sent to England, United States, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, South Africa, and Brazil.

The exports of live cattle advanced during the same quarter to 30,000 beeves, 150,000 sheep, and 10,000 horses, these last being sent almost exclusively to South Africa.

The exports to the United States during this quarter of 1900 were as follows: Dry ox hides, 208,956; salt ox hides, 7,480; hair, 272 bales; goat skins, 410 bales; wool, 11,360 bales, and quebracho, 5,829 tons.

A comparison of the exports from the Argentine Republic for the first three months of 1900 with the same months of 1899 shows that there was a considerable falling off in the number of hides—both ox and horse—sent abroad. The same is true of sheepskins, the falling off in this item having been 2,300 bales. The number of bales of goatskins increased 60. There was a decrease of 42,000 bales in the exports of wool. The number of frozen wethers exported was 27,000 less than in the first quarter of 1899. The exports of flour fell off 1,700 tons, polards decreased 1,400 tons, and quebracho 8,000 tons. There was a slight increase in the amount of tallow sent to foreign markets. In wheat there were increased exports of 332,000 tons, or nearly 100 per cent; in corn, 45,000 tons; in linseed, 62,000 tons; in bran, 2,500 tons, and in oilseed, 1,000 bags. The exports of hay show an increase of 597,000 bales, mainly on account of the war in South Africa, 684,000 bales having been sent to British ports there in the three months. There was a falling off of 400 bales in the exports of tobacco, while no sugar was exported, against 3,100 tons during the first quarter of 1899. The number of cases of butter shipped to Europe increased by 3,500.

#### MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF SANTA FE.

At the opening of the State Legislature the Governor of the State of Santa Fe appeared before the joint assembly and read his annual message. Agriculture, he said, was increasing in the State by leaps and bounds, and, contrary to the general opinion, the extent of land under cultivation was considerably in excess of that of previous years. The crops of the present year were the greatest in quantity and generally the best in quality of any produced in the last five years.

As to finances, all the accounts of the State had been fully liquidated, leaving a surplus of \$1,000,000, from which was reserved the amount to be given the National Government for the payment of the interest on the foreign debt.

The estimated expenditures of the year had been \$5,670,000, but the actual expenses were only \$5,052,643, showing a saving of over \$600,000. The revenues, partly owing to a better system of collecting, showed an increase of 27 per cent over the previous year.

In 1898 the number of immigrants settling in the State was 6,577, which increased in 1899 to 9,645. In 1898 the area under cultivation



was 1,416,357 hectares, but in 1899 the cultivated area was 1,748,809 hectares, not counting 225,000 hectares in alfalfa.

#### NUMBER OF FOREIGN-BORN CITIZENS.

According to the report of the National Demographic Bureau, the number of foreign-born people residing in the Argentine Republic in 1899 was 1,200,000. Of these the Italians numbered 600,000, the other nationalities being as follows: Spanish, 238,900; French, 112,900; English, 26,100; Germans, 20,600; Russians, 18,100; Swiss, 17,700; Austrians, 15,400; Belgians, 6,500; Dutch, 3,500; Portuguese, 2,800; Swedes, 2,000; Danes, 1,700; North Americans, 1,700; Uruguayans, 58,400; Brazilians, 14,700; Chileans, 24,700; Paraguayans, 17,500; Bolivians, 8,800; other nationalities, 8,000.

#### DISCUSSIONS REGARDING CATTLE EXPORTS.

The Minister of Agriculture has held a meeting at Buenos Ayres with the representatives of the principal export firms and navigation companies, according to a report to the New York "Tribune," in order to exchange views in regard to the conduct to be pursued on account of the closing of British ports against Argentine cattle. There has been a slight epidemic among the cattle, known as the "foot and mouth disease," but it has been almost completely stamped out as a result of the sanitary precautions of the Argentine authorities under the supervision of the practical and energetic Minister of Agriculture. At a recent congress of the leading agriculturists of the Republic, held in Buenos Ayres, this subject was also one of the topics under discussion.

#### GOVERNMENT LANDS.

Dr. E. LAHITTE, in a recent report to the Minister of Agriculture on the Provinces of Santa Fé, Entre Rios, and Corrientes, gives a digest of the agrarian and colonization laws of the country from the year 1812 to the year 1895, inclusive, a classification of the rural properties, a statement of the mortgages, and full particulars respecting the Government lands in the Territories of the Republic.

He states that the nation possesses the following lands: In Misiones, 792,000 hectares; Formosa, 8,676,000; Chaco, 13,025,000; Pampa Central, 3,125,000; Neuquen, 6,174; Rio Negro, 15,087,000; Chubut, 22,546,000; Santa Cruz, 24,950,000, and in Tierra del Fuego, 1,887,000.

#### RAILWAY NOTES.

The traffic of the Argentine railroads in the agricultural section of the Republic has recently been so great that considerable difficulty has been experienced in supplying the demand for cars in which to make shipments.

The Great Western Railroad has been authorized by the Government to use, in the construction of its Luján branch, the rails of the main line, which are being replaced by heavier ones, provided they are in good condition. This enables the railway to proceed with the work of constructing the branch line.

The plans of the Oeste Santaferino Railway for the construction of a line from San José Esquina to Rio Cuatro, and from the intersection of said road with the Andine Railway at the last point named, have been approved by the Government.

Considerable interest is being manifested in Europe regarding the use of ironwood (*quebracho*) ties. The Argentine Industrial Union has published a pamphlet on this subject containing testimonials of the Argentine railways as to the durability of this wood. The German Government, after a satisfactory trial, has ordered 30,000 of these ties. Ironwood ties have given very satisfactory results in Italy, Belgium, and France, and it is expected that large numbers of them will be sent to those countries.

Mr. A. MASCHWITZ, a civil engineer, has been sent as a delegate from Buenos Ayres to the International Railway Congress. While in Paris this engineer will endeavor to demonstrate that railroad ties of *quebracho colorado* are as good as, if not superior to, oak ties, and that they can be laid down in European ports at a rate cheaper than the prices demanded for ties of other material.

#### DEMAND FOR FENCING WIRE.

The commercial expert sent out by the German Government and attached to the consulate of that country in Buenos Ayres, in a recent report regarding the demand for fencing wire, says:

"The estates belonging to cattle breeders cover very large stretches of land. They are all divided off by means of iron wire fences. An estate of 35,000 acres requires about 249 kilometers, or an estate of 180,000 acres, 1,575 kilometers of iron wire, for fencing purposes. These fences, which are about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  meters high, are fixed to strong wooden posts sunk into the ground to a depth of from 15 to 20 inches. These posts are joined by six or seven parallel rows of iron wire, so that the cattle can not possibly escape. Between the main posts intermediary supports or stays are placed at uniform distances. The stays are largely of angle iron, but of late, preference has been given to stays of native wood. One row of the wire fencing usually consists of barbed wire. Of late, galvanized or yarnished wires have been used, owing to their greater durability. Enormous lengths of iron wire are also required for smaller inclosures within the boundaries of the estate, so that the different breeds and classes of animals can be kept separate. The costs of such a fence are calculated at about 45 paper *centavos* (7 *pesos*=100 *centavos*) per current meter—posts, stays,

and wire included. Over and above this, as Argentine possesses extraordinarily large pasture lands, which will have to be fenced off as cattle breeding develops, the demand for iron wire is bound to increase."

#### CONCESSIONS FOR GRAIN ELEVATORS.

The "British Trade Journal" reports that the Argentine Chamber of Deputies has passed a bill whereby the Government is empowered to come to terms with private contractors for the construction and working of grain elevators in the ports of the Republic, or close to railway stations where there is any fiscal land. Important financial concessions will be made to private enterprises if they commence operations within the first two years after promulgation of the law. The maximum duration of the concessions is for forty years. The elevator companies will be allowed to issue warrants upon the goods warehoused. For the Argentine Republic the erection of grain elevators is of special importance, because sacks are ordinarily so dear that the costs of packing often amount to one-fourth of the value of the goods.

#### CORRUGATED IRON ROOFING.

An official report from the commercial attaché of the German Legation at Buenos Ayres says that the use of corrugated iron roofing is very considerable in the Provinces. The dwelling houses on the farms, the laborers' houses and cottages, and especially the barns and stables, are all roofed with corrugated iron. This metal is also used for covering the mouths of wells, for making doors and party walls, and for other building purposes. It is imported from Great Britain, and is always galvanized.

#### GERMAN VIEW OF THE TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The "Süd-Amerikanische Rundschau" in its issue for May 1, 1900, says:

"The most interesting and astonishing feature in the statistics of the commerce of the Argentine Republic is that the United States increased its exports to the Argentine during the past year 39 per cent, and has, therefore, jumped to the second place, while Germany has fallen to the fourth, with Italy ranking third. For many years the United States fell behind all European exporting countries—England, Germany, France, Belgium, and Italy. This relation has undergone a most decided change. England, with its shipping and its great industries, besides its old commercial connections, still maintains the first place in South America, and will no doubt do so for some time to come; but France in the last twenty years has been falling behind her younger rivals."

**PATENTS GRANTED UNITED STATES CITIZENS.**

A patent has been granted to the Model Bottling Company, owners of the "Edward Wagner process and apparatus for Pasteurizing beer." This is an invention of a citizen of the United States, and the duration of the patent is for ten years.

A patent has been granted to the Milwaukee Harvester Company, of Milwaukee, covering improvements on mowing machines. The life of the patent is ten years.

**CONTRACTS FOR BRIDGES.**

The Boston Bridge Works were the successful bidders for the ironwork to be used in the construction of a bridge over the Grand River, Province of Jujuy. This same company also secured the contract for the ironwork for the bridge over the stream called "Santa Maria," on the road from Punta de Vacas to Chile.

**EXPORTS OF FLOUR FROM ROSARIO.**

The total exports of flour from Rosario during 1899 were 52,000 tons, the greater part of which was sent to Brazil. Considerable wheat, for Brazilian consumption, was also exported. The total value of the wheat and flour shipped from this port during 1899 was £760,000.

**UNITED STATES PATENT GRANTED TO ARGENTINIANS.**

On May 15, 1900, the United States Patent Office granted to ADOLFO V. LADEN and R. C. D. ORTELLI, of Buenos Ayres, a patent (No. 649,462) for a "box made of a single piece."

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**BOLIVIA.****IMPORTANT COLONIAL DECREE.**

The MONTHLY BULLETIN is indebted to Señor Don MANUEL V. BALIVIÁN, Honorary Corresponding Member of the International Union of American Republics from La Paz, Bolivia, for a copy of an important colonial decree promulgated by the President of that Republic on the 8th of March last, the principal clauses of which are in substance as follows:

The National Territory of the Colonies is constituted and is under the direct jurisdiction of the Minister of Colonization in all branches of the public service.

It is bounded on the north by Brazil, the dividing line extending from the confluence of the rivers Beni and Mamoré to the source of

the river Yavari, on the south by the rivers Madre de Dios and Baja Beni, and upon the west by Peru.

In conformity with article 2 of the Constitution there shall be religious toleration within the territory described, but the State recognizes and maintains the Roman Catholic Apostolic religion.

All the rights and guaranties specified in section 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bolivia shall be recognized by the authorities of the Territory of the Colonies.

Foreigners who have lived one year in the Territory of the Colonies, and who shall declare before the municipal authorities of the place in which they reside their wish to become citizens of the Republic, shall be considered Bolivians.

The supreme government of the Territory of the Colonies, in its political, administrative, and economic capacity, shall be vested in an officer called a Delegate, who shall be the direct agent of the Executive Power, with whom he shall communicate through the Minister of the Colonies.

In all branches of the Government, and in that which pertains to the order and security of the Territory, the public functionaries or officers resident therein shall be subordinate to the Delegate.

Every officer, destined to the Territory of the Colonies, contracts, on accepting his charge, the obligation of serving for two years at least. In case of promotion to another public office in the same territory the term shall be counted from the date of the new appointment.

The officer who shall have complied with his duties in an honorable manner shall be entitled to the expenses of his trip home, and, in addition, to the fourth part of a year's salary corresponding to the last position held.

The Delegate and other officers, in the use of their authority, shall give preference to the establishing of agricultural colonists, the opening of roads, and the making of territorial explorations. Commencing with the year 1901, complete reports shall be rendered every five years, showing the progress, condition, and development of the different enterprises, number of inhabitants, industrial establishments, etc.

The Delegate shall correspond with the authorities and with the Bolivian and Brazilian Consuls with respect to the regulating of river navigation, the transit of boats, the handling of the mails, and the movement of importations, exportations, etc.

The Delegate shall serve four years, and shall be responsible for the acts of the administration within the territory under his jurisdiction. He may be removed by the President for causes seriously affecting the good service of the administration or which endanger public order. He shall oversee and inspect the custom-houses, and regulate and adjust their operations. He shall study the industrial and commercial wants of the Territory, and the proper means of developing them, using such methods to that end as he may deem most appropriate.

He shall see that the proper books are kept in the fiscal offices, and that they are regularly audited; shall note any irregularities and hold their makers responsible.

He shall order surveyed the lands of the State which have been sold or adjudicated to individuals, and shall have maps made of salable and unoccupied lands.

Every six months he shall render a report to the Government, giving a detailed account of the affairs of the administration, and of the exercise made of his general and special powers.

In case of absence, sickness, inability to serve, or death of the Delegate his office shall be filled by the *Intendente* (Governor) until such time as the Government may otherwise decide.

The Delegation shall have a secretary whose duties shall be:

To conduct the correspondence in conformity with the instructions of his superior; to formulate with minuteness and exactness, and in accordance with the law, all the resolutions that the Delegate promulgates.

To preserve copies of the correspondence and resolutions of the office, remitting monthly certified copies of the same to the Government.

To collect statistical data; to make a list of the population, and industrial establishments; to file documents; to establish order and discipline in the office, requiring at least seven hours' daily work from the employees.

The Treasury of the Delegation shall be in charge of the Secretary or of a special officer, if it is so determined by the legislative power, who shall be governed by the fiscal laws with respect to the management and inversion of the public funds.

The management and administration of the customs of the Territory of the Colonies are subject to the existing tariffs and imposts, as well as to the law of the 25th of November, 1893, and the decree governing the same.

Duties shall be paid at the custom-houses of the Territory of the Colonies, in the national money of Brazil, or in drafts on Manãos, Pará, or London, at the time of the importation or exportation of the merchandise.

#### NEW EXPORT DUTIES ON RUBBER.

A Presidential decree of the 14th of February modifies the export duties on rubber.

An *ad valorem* duty will henceforth be collected as follows:

Eight per cent on the rubbers exported by the Custom Houses of Villa-Bella (via Madeira and the Amazon), of Geiba and Puerto Suarez (via Paraguay), and of the Department of La Paz (via Mollendo).

Fifteen per cent on the rubbers exported by the Customs of Acre (via Puraz and the Amazon).

The former taxes of 10 and 16 *centavos* per kilogram, according to the quality, represented in 1896 an *ad valorem* duty of 7 per cent on fine rubber and of 6.57 per cent on "Sernamby."

#### MINING IN PACAJAS DISTRICT.

Considerable activity is being noted in mining circles in the district of Pacajas. The production of copper is rapidly increasing in this district, the average output being about 1,100 quintals weekly. Up to the present time this section of the country has not attracted much attention, but capitalists are now becoming interested in the mines and considerable prospecting is being done. The district is rich in minerals and is a promising field for prospectors, miners, and investors.

#### BANKING ESTABLISHMENT IN ORURO.

"El Mercurio," of Valparaíso, in its issue of April 15, 1900, states that, in conformity with the previous authorization of the Government of Bolivia, there has been established at Oruro a bank, the promoters of which are Chilean and Bolivian capitalists. The bank proposes to have coined 2,000,000 *bolivianos* in *half boliviano* pieces. Bullion will be purchased for this purpose and sent to the mint at Santiago, Chile, for coinage.

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### BRAZIL.

#### MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT CAMPOS SALLES.

The annual message of President CAMPOS SALLES was delivered at the opening session of the National Congress on the 4th of May, 1900.

The President began his address to the legislators by referring to the satisfactory state of the international relations and the importance of the visit to Brazil of President ROCA, of the Argentine Republic, and the good influence such friendly intercourse must have in the policy of American solidarity.

The boundary dispute with French Guiana, the President said, has, by common consent, been submitted to the arbitration of the Swiss Government and a decision favorable to Brazil is expected. The negotiations for the arbitration of the British Guiana boundary dispute are to be continued by Dr. NABUCO. The question of the Acre territory was reviewed at length from the treaty of 1874 up to the last protocol.

The message states that the Brazilian Government, having asked a reduction of 30 per cent on the duties imposed by France and Italy on 100 kilograms of coffee, the former offered a reduction of 15 per cent and the latter of 30 *liras*. Negotiations are still in progress.

The President made reference to two subjects which have recently agitated the Republic—the monarchial conspiracy and the appearance

at São Paulo of the bubonic plague. In this connection he urges electoral and judiciary reforms, and recommends an increase in the police and sanitary forces.

Referring to the army, the President said that great progress has been made on the works of fortification, and urged the adoption of a military penal code. It is also noted that great progress has been made in the work of repairing vessels.

On the subject of railways, the message states that the Government has leased the São Francisco Railway to private parties, and also is endeavoring to lease the Southern Pernambuco and the Paulo Affonso railways. The accounts of the Central Railway showed a small favorable balance, notwithstanding the reduction made in freight rates for the benefit of agriculturists.

The part of the message which is of special interest is that relating to the finances. The President referred to the grave situation of the country when he began his administration, and stated that the aim of himself and advisers had been to reduce expenses and increase the revenues, and that this aim was the policy adopted for the future. The announcement is made that the administration is now entering upon a most auspicious phase, and that the Government confidently awaits the approach of the 1st of July, 1901, which is the date fixed for the resumption of specie payments.

The message informs us that all the Treasury notes issued during the fiscal year were paid within that period; that up to the 31st of March, 71,658,996 *milreis* in paper money had been redeemed, and the indications were that even a larger sum would be redeemed within the present year; also, that Uruguayan bonds, quoted at 59, were exchanged for Brazilian bonds at 60. These were paid off to the amount of £700,000. Other payments were made for national bonds of 1868 and 1889.

The total revenue during the fiscal year amounted to 19,416,706 *milreis*, gold, and 302,693,000 *milreis*, paper. The expenditures for the fiscal year amounted to 225,942,225 *milreis*, paper, and 14,092,046 *milreis*, gold. Deducting the expenditures from the receipts, there was shown a balance of 88,311,775 *milreis*, paper, and 5,325,660 *milreis*, gold.

As regards the revenue of the current year, nothing can be positively affirmed, said the President, but the study of the general conditions of the country and an analysis of the revenues lead to the belief that the receipts of the present fiscal year will not be below those of the preceding year.

In conclusion the President said: "The slow but continual appreciation of our currency, exhibited by the rise and stability of exchange; the increased value of our exports, manifested by the rise in the price of coffee; the reestablishment of our credit, as shown by the notable rise in the price of our bonds abroad and the increasing number of



investments by foreign capitalists in Brazil; the balance, or surplus, in the budget, due to the reduction of expenditures and the marked increase in the revenue; certainty on the part of the Government, and greater confidence on the part of our creditors in our ability to resume specie payments on our foreign obligations—these are the results of the efforts and devotion, not only of Congress and the Government, but also, it is just to say, of the Brazilian people, who have willingly made every sacrifice asked of them in order to restore the credit of the Republic.”

#### COMMERCE WITH FRANCE.

Brazilian exports to France during the months of January and February of the current year amounted to 13,558,000 *francs*, or an increase of 1,982,000 *francs* over the value of exports for the same months in 1899. France exported to Brazil, goods to the value of 3,940,000 *francs*, or 2,842,000 *francs* less than the value of her exports for the same period in 1899. This decrease is evidently due to the uncertainty as to the outcome of the custom-house negotiations, which has paralyzed the export trade to France.

#### FEBRUARY IMPORTS AT RIO DE JANEIRO.

According to statistics published in the last number of the “Boletim da Alfandega,” of Rio de Janeiro, the official value of imports at that port for the month of February was 8,766,462 *milreis* or about £440,000 at the exchange rate of 12 *pence* per *milreis*. This amount is distributed as follows:

	Milreis.		Milreis.
Great Britain.....	2, 154, 925	Argentine Republic.....	643, 620
Uruguay.....	1, 475, 042	Belgium.....	580, 787
Germany.....	1, 450, 347	Italy.....	189, 925
United States.....	875, 354	Spain.....	26, 777
France.....	704, 005	Chile.....	1, 136
Portugal.....	646, 754	Other countries.....	27, 284

#### COLLECTION OF INTERNAL REVENUES.

The Director of Public Revenue has made a report to the Minister of Finance, showing the amounts, in *milreis*, received for “consumption taxes” in 1899, in comparison with the budget estimate and the amount received in 1898, as follows:

	Receipts, 1899.	Budget estimate.	Receipts, 1898.
From matches.....	6, 667, 815	7, 000, 000	4, 535, 013
From tobacco.....	6, 217, 282	5, 000, 000	2, 671, 120
From salt.....	4, 178, 783	3, 000, 000	4, 765, 336
From beverages.....	4, 152, 400	3, 500, 000	2, 578, 706
Total.....	21, 216, 280	18, 500, 000	14, 548, 175

The consumption taxes, collected for the first time on the following articles, amounted to 3,128,054 *milreis*, bringing the grand total up to 24,344,334 *milreis*: Boots and shoes, 924,232; perfumery, 698,174; pharmaceutical specialties, 632,444; canned goods, 427,505; candles, 319,939; playing cards, 74,633; vinegar, 51,127.

The new stamp taxes promulgated by the last Congress apply to the following articles, whether of domestic or foreign origin:

Articles.	Tax.	
	<i>Rcis.*</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Cigars.....each..	8 to 100	0.0012 to 0.015
Cigarettes.....per package of 20 or less..	25	.00375
Cigarette paper.....per package of 120 leaflets..	40	.006
Cigarette husks.....do.....	30	.0045
Smoking tobacco.....per 25 grams..	40	.006
Snuff.....per 125 grams..	60	.009
Beverages, including soda water, beer, wines, and spirituous liquors..	75 to 1,000	.011 to .15
Matches.....per box..	20	.003
Salt.....per kilogram..	30 to 100	.0045 to .015
Boots, shoes, sandals, slippers.....per pair..	200 to 1,000	.03 to .15
Candles.....per $\frac{1}{2}$ pound..	25	.00375
Articles of perfumery.....per each object..	20 to 1,000	.003 to .15
Pharmaceutical specialties (patent medicines).....do.....	20 to 1,000	.003 to .15
Vinegar.....per liter..	30	.0045
Preserves and pickles.....per $\frac{1}{2}$ pound..	25	.00375
Playing cards.....per pack..	500	.075
Umbrellas and parasols.....each..	500 to 2,000	.075 to .30
Hats.....do.....	500 to 2,000	.075 to .30
Cotton goods.....per meter..	10 to 300	.0015 to .045
Canes and walking sticks.....each..	200 to 2,000	.03 to .30

\*Taking the market value of the paper *milreis* at 15 cents.

### MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF SÃO PAULO.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received a copy of the message of Governor FERNANDO PRESTES DE ALBUQUERQUE, addressed to the Legislature of the State of São Paulo on the occasion of the convening of that body on April 7, 1900.

In the message, reference is made to the satisfactory condition of the public health, there having been a decrease in the number of deaths from typhoid fever and tuberculosis. Near the close of the year great uneasiness was felt at the appearance, for the first time in the State, of the bubonic plague. The epidemic was speedily eradicated, owing to the prompt and vigorous measures adopted. A laboratory has been established for the preparation of the "Yersin serum," the only known remedy for this disease.

On the subject of public instruction the Governor said there had been a considerable increase in the number of pupils attending schools of primary, secondary, and superior instruction. The number of public schools in the State is 2,354, having an attendance last year of 46,577 pupils, which is an increase of 3,556 over the attendance during the preceding year. In addition to these there are the model and private schools, having an average attendance of 6,963 pupils. At the Polytechnic School 141 students are enrolled.

Many public works have been undertaken and completed during the year, and new works authorized. Among these are school buildings, bridges, wagon roads, and other works. Considerable progress has been made in the construction of the insane asylum at Juquery and of the iron bridge at São José.

The number of immigrants in 1899 amounted to 36,012. By virtue of contracts still in force, 20,960 immigrants must be introduced into São Paulo during the current year. The colonies of São Bernardo, Sabauna, Pariquerassú, Piaguhy, and Campos Salles remain under the supervision of the State. By Act No. 678, of September 13, 1899, agricultural districts have been formed having as centers the cities of São Paulo, Campinas, Ribeirão Preto, São Carlos do Pinhal, Sorocaba, and Iguape. To these were distributed during the year 18,495,762 grams of seeds. An agricultural experiment station has been established at Piracicaba.

The extent of railways in operation is given at 3,313 kilometers. The extent of river navigation is set down at 574 kilometers, which is 202 kilometers less than the extent of navigation last year. This is due to the suppression of service on the Una, Jacupiranga, and Juquia rivers.

The year 1899 closed under the most favorable circumstances for the finances of the State. The rise in the price of coffee during the last quarter of the year, together with the better quotation of the exchange, produced a favorable reaction in agriculture and trade, predicting the return of a season of prosperity. Industry revived and foreign capital entered the State in large amounts for the exploitation of various industries, which is a sure sign of the confidence felt abroad in the future of the State.

The total revenue of the State for the fiscal year 1899 amounted to 57,748,889 *milreis*, and the total expenditures to 42,941,995 *milreis*, leaving a balance of 8,356,933 *milreis* to be carried forward to the credit of the fiscal year 1900.

At the end of 1899 the State debt amounted to 21,472,854 *milreis*, divided as follows:

Internal consolidated debt, 2,265 bonds, nominal value 1 *conto* each; 2,265,000 *milreis*.

Foreign consolidated debt, £2,057,900, at exchange rate of 27 *pence* per *milreis*; 18,292,442 *milreis*.

Internal floating debt, 915,412 *milreis*.

#### MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF BAHIA.

From the message of Dr. LUIZ VIAUNA, Governor of the State of Bahia, to the Legislature of that Commonwealth at its opening session on the 7th of April the following extracts are made:

“Notwithstanding the prolonged drought through which the State

has passed during a period of almost three years, and which has been especially severe this last year, it has been able to meet all its obligations, maintaining its credit unshaken at home and abroad.

"There was a marked decrease in the receipts from the principal sources of revenue during 1899 in comparison with the preceding years. In 1898 the export tax on tobacco amounted to 4,344,616 *milreis*, while in 1899 it amounted to 2,589,538 *milreis*, showing a decrease from this source of 1,755,075 *milreis*. The export tax on coffee amounted to 1,671,256 *milreis* in 1898, and in 1899 to 982,950 *milreis*, or 688,305 *milreis* less than the preceding year; on cacáo, 2,095,653 *milreis* in 1898, compared with 1,952,369 *milreis* in 1899; on piassaba, 203,192 *milreis* in 1898, compared with 185,847 *milreis* in 1899. The receipts from the export tax on leather showed an increase of 59,849 *milreis* over those of last year.

"The ordinary receipts for 1899 amounted to 10,964,767 *milreis*, which is 3,879,937 less than the receipts in 1898 which amounted to 14,844,701 *milreis*. This difference was made up by a loan from Rio de Janeiro of 3,000,000 *milreis* at 7 per cent interest. \* \* \* The receipts for the current year are estimated at 14,721,499 and the expenditures at 14,720,214 *milreis*.

"The public debt of the State is as follows:

"The foreign consolidated debt consists of 34,410 bonds of the loan of 1888, contracted with the Brazilian Syndicate at Paris, par value 500 *francs* each, or a total of 17,205,000 *francs*, which is equivalent, at the rate of exchange of 27 *pence* per *milreis*, to 6,973,365 *milreis*.

"The internal consolidated debt is represented by 5 per cent bonds to the amount of 6,747,100 *milreis*; 1,000 bonds, par value 1 *conto*, issued for the Western Central Railway; 1,866 bonds, par value 1 *conto*, in five payments, for the construction of three sugar mills, in pursuance of the acts of June 20, 1897, and August 4, 1898.

"The floating debt consists of £50,000, still due the Bahia Gas Company, Limited, in payment of the stock of this company; funds of orphans and absentees to the amount of 826,103 *milreis*, and deposits of savings banks to the amount of 2,125,492 *milreis*.

"There was an amortization of the foreign debt during the last year of 320,000 *francs*, it being thereby reduced to 17,205,000 *francs*.

"The loan contracted at Rio de Janeiro has been reduced to 2,700,000 *milreis*, the State Treasury having made a payment of 300 *contos* during the year."

#### CONCESSION FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF THE STATE RAILROADS.

The Belgian Legation at Rio de Janeiro writes that the proposals received last year by the Brazilian Government for the exploitation of the railroads of Southern Pernambuco, Paulo-Affonso, and São

Francisco, belonging to the Federal State, not having appeared sufficiently advantageous, the Brazilian Minister of Industry and Communications has canceled the award for these first two lines. The São Francisco only has been awarded to the engineer TEIVE and Mr. ARGOLLO. New stipulations for the leasing of the Southern Pernambuco have just been published in the "Diario Official." Proposals were received up to May 31, 1900, at the General Direction of Roads and Works, of the Department of Industry at Rio de Janeiro. The lease is to have a maximum duration of thirty years. The contractor must deposit in the Treasury as guaranty a sum of 250 *contos* in Brazilian money, but on the other hand he will enjoy the privileges of expropriation and exemption of customs dues on the material imported for construction purposes.

#### PRINCIPAL EXPORTS OF CEARÁ.

Among the principal exports of the State of Ceará in 1899 were the following products, the values being expressed in *milreis*: Rubber (to Europe), 2,718,111; cattle (to the State of Pará), 1,052,201; cotton, 166,387 (69,618 to other Brazilian States and 96,769 to Europe); hides, 1,566,943 (758,187 to Europe and 808,756 to the United States); mules, 244,400; preserved fruits, 152,270, and hammocks, 504,176. The estimated value of all the exports of this State is 10,391,114 *milreis*, divided among the other States of the Republic and foreign countries as follows: Other States, 3,684,412; Europe, 3,791,844, and the United States, 2,914,858. On these shipments 955,960 *milreis*, equivalent to 9.2 per cent, were paid as export duties. From this State there were only 260 bags of coffee exported in 1899.

#### PRODUCTION OF PRECIOUS STONES.

According to information received from Bahia there was a slight increase in the production of diamonds and carbons on account of the great drought and consequent drying up of rivers, the bottoms of which had previously been inaccessible by the crude methods of mining prevailing in certain parts of Brazil. It was estimated that production was last year trebled, yet no one can estimate the value of the production or even the amount of export, because the State puts a duty of 16 per cent on valuation besides the 1 per cent demanded by the municipality, and, as a result, very few diamonds and carbons are declared.

Amethysts are found in immense quantity in the interior of the State, but are not being mined because of the low price prevailing. Rubies, mostly of small sizes suitable for watch jewels, are found in large quantities in the diamond region, but are not shipped because of the lack of demand.

**CUSTOMS RECEIPTS AT MANÃOS IN MARCH.**

The receipts of the Manãos custom-house for the month of March, 1900, show an increase of 404,863.50 *milreis* over the same month in 1899. The number of *milreis* in March, 1900, was 1,037,771.69, against 632,908.19 in March, 1899. The gold receipts were 132,229.75 *milreis*, or 15 per cent, in March, 1900, against 52,059.71 *milreis*, or 10 per cent, in the same month of 1899.

**COINAGE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL.**

During the month of April, 1900, there was coined at the Mint of Rio de Janeiro the following amounts: Gold to the value of 14,240 *milreis*; silver, 2,000 *milreis* in pieces of the denomination of \$2; 3,000 *milreis* in \$1 pieces; 3,000 *milreis* in pieces of the value of 400 *reis*; nickel, 800 *milreis* in pieces of the denomination of 200 *reis*, and 3,700 *milreis* in pieces of 100 *reis*, or a total coinage of 26,740 *milreis*.

**THE STUDY OF YELLOW FEVER.**

The "Managing Committee" of the Liverpool, England, "School of Tropical Diseases" will dispatch, within a short time, an expedition to the Amazon regions to investigate the cause, prevention, and cure of yellow fever. The members of this expedition will first visit the city of Baltimore, in the United States, where they will confer with recognized experts on this and kindred diseases who are connected with Johns Hopkins University.

**AMAZON TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**

A meeting of the shareholders of the "Amazon Telegraph Company" was recently held at London. Mr. D. H. GOODSALL, who presided at the meeting, stated that owing to the difficulties in maintaining the cables, the accounts of the company showed a deficit of £29,000. Repairs were being made in the cables, and at three places the line was being transferred to another route. It was hoped by these changes that the cable would be able to be maintained permanently in its present position. The company has obtained from the State of Amazonas a concession for a land line, which it expects to establish soon.

**IMPORTATIONS AT RIO DE JANEIRO IN 1899.**

The last tariff bulletin of Rio de Janeiro published the figures for the direct imports received at this port from abroad during the year 1899.

For the first time, writes the Belgian Legation at Rio, "this official publication indicates the countries of origin instead of, as formerly, only giving the total of the importation by article."

These statistics are prepared according to the order of the thirty-five classes of the customs tariff and have served as basis for the following data:

The total of the imports received at the principal Brazilian customs bureau in 1899 was 329,362,876 *milreis*, or at the exchange of 12 *pence* per *milreis* (base adopted by the customs), about 287,702,600 *francs*.

#### IMPORTATION OF ZINC WHITE.

Zinc white from Belgium, according to a report published in the "Deutsche Export Zeitung," has almost driven British and German white lead from the markets of the State of São Paulo. The railway companies have, in fact, given up white lead for white zinc, because the latter, when used on the coaches and at the stations does not assume the yellowish tint that the former exhibits when exposed to the atmospheric elements for a time. Color paints are imported into São Paulo mainly in powdered form.

#### PARÁ RUBBER.

The stock of rubber at Belem on the 31st of last January was 1,525 tons; during the month of February 4,000 tons were received, making a total at that port of 5,525 tons. Of this amount 1,477 tons were exported to the United States and 1,885 tons to Europe.

#### MINING NOTES.

A company was recently organized at Brussels for the exploitation of the copper mines along the banks of the Camaquan River in Rio Grande do Sul. The company is known under the name of "Minas de Cobre de Camaquan." The capital of the company is 1,500,000 *francs*, consisting of 3,000 shares, of the value of 500 *francs* each.

During April, 1900, gold bars were exported through Rio de Janeiro from the Morro Vellro mine to the value of 447,000 *milreis* (\$244,062). The "Rio News" states that the State taxes and freight charges on this shipment amounted to 20,522.626 *milreis*, or \$11,205.55.

Some 50 cases of cyanide of potassium for the use of the São Bento gold mines were recently received at Rio de Janeiro. This product was admitted free of duty, in accordance with the new tariff law which makes provision with reference to the mining industry.

The "Pharol," of Juiz de Fora, says that beds of isinglass, sulphur, and saltpeter have been discovered in that district. Miners are again at work on the gold diggings in the Andaime range of mountains.

#### VALUABLE LAND CONCESSION.

Senhor MANOEL FLORIANO CORREA DE BRITTO, a native of Brazil, has been awarded a most valuable concession of land near the city of Manãos. The property consists of several thousand acres of rubber

and cocoa land, including immense belts situated on the banks of the Rio Negro, Rio Jupurú, and Rio Branco.

#### MINISTER TO THE COURT OF ST. JAMES.

Dr. JOAQUIM NABUCO, of Pernambuco, has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Brazil at London, to succeed the late Dr. SOUZA CORREA.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

It is officially announced from Rio de Janeiro that the Brazilian Government will not ask Congress to impose an additional gold duty on imports. It is, however, considered possible that the gold duty may be raised and a corresponding reduction made in the paper duties.

It is stated that in Goyaz, wheat flour manufactured from grain raised in that State, for the first time in the history of the country, has appeared in the market, selling at the same price as flour imported from the United States and the Argentine Republic.

A central rice-cleaning mill has been established at San Carlos do Pinhal, São Paulo, to which have been added appliances for grinding maize. A rice-cleaning mill has also been erected in Jahú, in the same State.

The lines of the submarine cable between Pará and Pernambuco, in order to more properly care for the increased commerce between these points, as well as with the United States and European markets, are to be increased.

The official value of goods imported at Rio de Janeiro during the month of January of the current year was 8,653,790 *milreis*, compared with 19,737,655 *milreis* for the same month of last year.

A new "Banco de Credito Real," with a Dutch and German capital of 3,000,000 *marks*, is soon to be established in Porto Alegre. The concession was granted to HEINRICH SCHULLER.

The State of Pará recently issued a decree authorizing a foreign loan of £2,000,000 to be contracted through the commercial firm of MARINS & LEVY, of Manãos.

Major XIMENO VILLEROY has been sent to the United States, according to a report in the "Rio News," to investigate the manufacture of smokeless powder.



## CHILE.

**IMPORTANT REPORT RESPECTING CHILEAN NITRATES IN JAPAN.**

The report of the Chilean Legation in the Empire of Japan, made to the Chilean Government by Señor CARLOS MORLA VICUÑA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Chile to that Empire, can well be called a memorable one. This report contains an article which treats of the use, in Japan, of nitrate of soda as an agricultural fertilizer. It is an extensive and detailed investigation in which are found very interesting data concerning this subject. At the end of said report Señor MORLA VICUÑA publishes the following summary:

“The preceding statement based on official data derived from the Government’s statistics, the report of the Department of Agriculture, and Professors KINCH, KELLNER, FESCA, and REIN’s Works on “Japanese Agriculture and Chemical Analysis of Land, Manures, and Staple Produce,” shows beyond doubt that, at present prices, nitrate of soda is, after night soil and barnyard manure, the most advantageous source of nitrogen as an agricultural fertilizer, and that the possibility of its absorption by Japanese agriculture—the traditional routine once done away with—is almost boundless, and will very shortly amount to more than 100,000 tons. The opinion of experts of the highest standing, as, for instance, Mr. SAWANO, Director of the Central Experimental Agricultural Station of Japan, in Tokyo, is that nitrate of soda, at the price stated as obtainable in this report, would not take more than three years to come into general use in all the important cultivations of the country.

“The company to be formed for the importation of this substance is, therefore, embarking in a profitable business.

“First. It will be profitable to Japan’s agriculture by providing an efficient and relatively cheap manure that will enable increased crops to be produced at a reduced outlay.

“Second. It will be beneficial to Japan’s industries, for it will seek to establish a return trade carrying Japanese industrial products to the Republics bordering the west coast of South America. The products likely to find a market in those countries are: (1) Rice, now imported into Chile from Spain, the United States, and Peru (Lambayeque); (2) tea, an article of large consumption at present imported from China and Ceylon, through England; (3) cheap crockery, at present imported from Spain, France, England, and Germany; (4) yarns, printed and white cottons, generally used by the laboring classes in the manufacture of clothes; (5) fans, lanterns, etc., in common use all over South America and at present procured from Europe, etc.

“Third. It will be advantageous to the nitrate industry of Chile in opening an important new market for this product which is capable of being indefinitely increased.

“Fourth. It will be useful to the countries bordering the west coast of South America by placing them in regular, periodical, and frequent communication with Japan and other eastern countries.

“The governments of Japan and the South American Republics mentioned are controlled by progressive and enlightened statesmen, who will not fail to aid this undertaking, which has for its object their mutual welfare and prosperity, by—

“First abolishing the import duties on nitrate of soda, when used as an agricultural fertilizer in Japan, and, secondly, by subsidizing the company’s line of steamers, at least during the first three or four years, until the stream of reciprocal trade is regularly established.”

#### OPENING OF CONGRESS.

The National Congress of Chile was opened at Valparaiso on June 1, 1900. The message of the President is said to have created a very favorable impression. The revenues for 1901 were estimated at \$125,000,000 and the expenditures at \$108,000,000, including \$16,500,000 for increasing the public works. It was recommended that the surplus be used for the reduction of the public debt.

#### BANK OF PUNTA ARENAS.

The “Diario Oficial” of the Republic of Chile, in its issue of April 19, 1900, contains a full text of the by-laws of the Bank of Punta Arenas, located in the Province of Magallanes, as follows:

“The life of this bank shall be fifty years, at the expiration of which time its charter may be further extended if the stockholders should so desire. The domicile of the company shall be Punta Arenas, and it shall have the right to establish branches in other parts of the Republic.

“The business of the bank shall be to receive and lend money on interest; to discount drafts, notes, and other negotiable paper in general; to buy and sell national and foreign securities; to open accounts current; to receive sight or time deposits; to draw drafts and letters of credit; to acquire lands or other property; to establish savings departments, and to engage in all those operations which lie within the province of a banking company.

“The capital of the company shall be \$500,000, divided into 5,000 shares of \$100 each. This capital stock may be increased to \$1,000,000 in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws of the company.

“During the year 1900 the bank shall not demand of its shareholders a greater quota than 20 per cent of the value of the subscribed stock.”

Punta Arenas is situated in the eastern part of the most southern

point of Chile, and this bank will doubtless be of great benefit in promoting trade and in the development of that part of the Republic.

### ELECTRICITY IN A COAL MINE.

A correspondent of the "South American Journal," writing from Valparaiso under date of April 2, 1900, speaks of the development of electricity in the Republic of Chile. After mentioning instances of the recent installation of electric tramways and lighting plants, with a general statement that electricity as a motive power is growing in favor throughout that country, he describes the operations of electricity in a mine. He says that, so far as is at present known, there is only one coal mine in Chile that is so operated. The following is a condensation of the correspondent's description of this mine, which belongs to the Cousiño family, and is popularly known as the "Pique Grande Carlos," or "Big Charles Pit."

"Two classes of power work this pit—steam and electricity. At first steam was used, but as the workings extended farther underground electricity was added. The hoisting and ventilating engines are still driven by steam, but all other machinery is driven by electricity. To generate the electric power water is used, brought by pipes from Chivilings Valley, in the mountains, about 7,000 meters from the mine. For the distance of 350 feet this line is brought down the face of a nearly perpendicular precipice. At the top of this descent the pipe has a diameter of 3 feet, but as it descends its diameter decreases until the stream becomes comparatively small, being forced with great velocity against a "Pelton wheel," the motion of which sets a large dynamo in operation, capable of generating power up to 10,000 volts.

"This power is transmitted along three wires erected upon posts about 25 feet in height, passing over mountains and valleys. These wires are carried into an iron receptacle (stationary transformer) about 6 feet in height, weighing about 8 tons, which contains a somewhat complicated mechanical contrivance immersed in resin. This transforms the power into 500 working volts. The electric current next passes through a partition of marble, as being a good nonconductor, and operates on another machine called a reforming transformer. The electricity is now conducted down the shaft a distance of about 1,000 feet, by means of a cable which is held to the sides of the shaft by clasps, and thence it passes along wires secured to the roof of the mine.

"So far the above may be called half of the system, the other half being represented by the motors which take the places of horses and mules in drawing the cars of coal from the workings to the shaft. There are five motors in all. These are square steel boxes on wheels, having plates which can be removed if necessary to get at the machinery inside. They are about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet and weigh about 3 tons each. At one end they have a kind of a bowsprit (trolley pole), except that it

stands upright and is divided at the top like a letter Y. Between the forks of the Y is a rubber of brass which touches the wire overhead and revolves as the locomotive moves. The current passes down through the bowsprit into the motor, the speed of which is controlled by a lever similar to the throttle valve of an engine.

“There is more or less moisture in every mine, but nothing of the kind can get inside these locomotives, as they are fully protected by the steel plates even from falling débris. It is said that any boy with ordinary intelligence can operate one of them after having received a few lessons. These motors draw trains of from 20 to 30 small cars loaded with coal.” The writer says it is understood that the application of electricity to this mine has effected a saving to the company which controls it of \$500,000 annually.

#### **EXTENT OF THE NITRATE DEPOSITS.**

“El Mercurio,” of Valparaiso, in a recent issue, contains an interesting article regarding the nitrate deposits of the Republic. The data are taken from the Government inspector’s reports for the year 1899. The nitrate district extends from the south of the Camarones River to the city of Taltal. Recently, considerable prospecting was done in the district of Toco, where it is estimated that 40,000,000 metric quintals of nitrate exist in paying quantities. In 1889 the total output amounted to 31,312,580 quintals, and about 20,000 laborers were employed in the production of this quantity. It is said that the output this year will amount to about 32,000,000 quintals, provided sufficient labor can be obtained to work the deposits. The mines of the Republic are estimated to contain more than 1,000,000,000 quintals, which, calculating an average exportation of 35,000,000 quintals per year, would last about forty-six years.

#### **LOCOMOTIVES FROM THE UNITED STATES.**

The “Compañía Hunchaca,” lessee of the Antofagasta Railway, extending from the Chilean coast into Bolivia, is having six locomotives built in the United States by the Baldwin Locomotive Works. Two of these were recently shipped to Chile.

#### **TAMAYA MINERAL DISTRICT.**

The district of Tamaya, situated in the Province of Coquimbo, department of Ovalle, is exceedingly rich in minerals. A railroad 60 kilometers long places it in communication with the port of Tongoi. The mountain of Tamaya at its greatest elevation is about 1,200 meters above sea level, and is conspicuous on account of its sharp and rugged peaks, rough and uninviting appearance. A cart road leads from the base of the mountain to most of the principal mines. Since the dis-

covery of the mines the easily reducible ores have been extracted, while the refractory ones have been abandoned, the miners not knowing how to reduce them. The oldest mines are Arenillas, Pizarro, Campanil, etc. The more recent ones, which have been discovered within the last sixty years, and which are the richest, are Piqué, Rosario, San José, Dichosa, Guías, and numerous others of lesser importance. The district contains an abundance of low-grade ore, and is a rich field for the prospector, miner and investor.

#### **CONCESSION TO STEAMSHIP COMPANY.**

The Chilean Government, under date of February 28, 1900, granted to the "West Coast Line Steamship Company" the same privileges as those enjoyed by any other steamship company already established, the West Coast Company agreeing to carry the Government mail free of charge. Employees of the Republic and freight for the Government must be carried at the reduced rates specified in article 16 of the Nation's contract with the Pacific Navigation Company, approved by decree of the first of March, 1880.

#### **NEW MATCH FACTORY.**

The Diamond Match Company will establish a factory at Valparaíso. The capital to be invested is £60,000, which can be increased at the option of the stockholders. The plant will be equipped with the latest and most improved match-making machinery in use at the present time, and will make a specialty of supplying the Chilean and Bolivian trade.

#### **BOARD OF TRADE AT ANTOFAGASTA.**

The "Diario Oficial" of Santiago, in its issue of April 11, 1900, publishes a decree authorizing the establishment of a Board of Trade at Antofagasta, together with the by-laws governing the same.

#### **PROPOSED PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.**

The National Society of Agriculture, of Santiago, has appropriated \$20,000 for the purchase of foreign agricultural machinery. This machinery will be resold, at cost, to members of the society.

#### **GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH RECEIPTS.**

A recent communication from the Director-General of Telegraphs shows that the total receipts for the year 1899 were \$613,003.70, being an increase over those of the previous year of \$128,273.85.

## COLOMBIA.

## MARITIME AND PORT DUES.

Since May 1, 1900, the Colombian Government exacts the payment in gold of the maritime duties.

On the same date the import duties on foreign merchandise were raised to 25 per cent *ad valorem* by the Governor of the Department of Panama.

The decree with reference to the port dues reads as follows:

“ARTICLE 1. From the 1st day of May next, the amount heretofore collected in Colombian currency for light-house, wharfage, tonnage, and pilotage dues, charges for ballast, and, in general, all port dues will be paid by vessels arriving at the ports of the Republic in the gold coin of the country from which they have sailed, or its equivalent in Colombian currency.

“ART. 2. The concessionaires of light-houses and wharves may celebrate contracts with the Government for the purpose of modifying the existing conditions in relation to the duration of their privileges and the portion of the fees which shall be paid to the Republic from the producers of said light-houses and wharves. If for any reason such arrangements are not made, there shall be collected in gold coin only the dues belonging to the Government, according to the respective contracts or acts of concession now in force.”

## ABOLITION OF THE MATCH MONOPOLY.

The Government of Colombia has issued a decree providing that the monopoly of the importation of matches, and of materials for the manufacture of same should end on the 10th of April, 1900, and setting forth the duty to be collected on said importation. The articles read:

“ARTICLE 1. After the 10th day of April next, the importation of matches, as well as the raw materials for the manufacture of same, will be permitted in the Republic.

“ART. 2. By virtue of the foregoing article, a duty on such importations will be collected as follows: Wax matches, \$1.50 (65.4 cents gold) per kilogram (2.2046 pounds); wooden matches, 50 *centavos* (21.8 cents) per kilogram. Materials for the manufacture of matches will pay the ordinary duty, plus 25 per cent.”

## INCREASED FREIGHT RATES.

Mr. W. IRVIN SHAW, United States Consul at Barranquilla, under date of April 28, 1900, sends copy of a notice published by the Barranquilla Railway and Pier Company, Limited, according to which

there will be charged from the 1st of May 5 cents gold for each 125 kilograms (275 pounds) of import or export cargo in addition to the regular freight charges collected in Colombian currency. The same charge will apply to shipments of cattle.

#### MARKET FOR SHEET TIN.

The "Deutsche Export Zeitung" notes that up to the present time the tin industry of Colombia has not been of such an extent as to awaken any particular interest, notwithstanding the fact that a number of kitchen and a few other utensils of tin are being manufactured there. The importations of sheet tin during the year ending June 30, 1898, were as follows: From Great Britain, 31,213 kilograms; France, 1,105 kilograms; Germany, 3,708 kilograms; United States, 3,779 kilograms.

Petroleum is imported in large quantities by Colombia, this oil being received in square tin cans holding 5 gallons each, and these cans when emptied of the petroleum are used for a number of other purposes. The native tinsmiths buy them for about 30 *centavos* each and manufacture other articles from them. Besides this, many are reexported filled with oil of copaiva, tolu, and other kinds of oils and balsams. There are no special manufactories of tinware where machinery is used, although inquiries are frequent respecting catalogues and price lists of tin-working tools.

#### PEARL FISHERY CONCESSION.

The Government at Bogotá announces that exclusive rights for pearl fishing in the waters of the Republic of Colombia will be granted upon the condition that 25 per cent of the net proceeds be allotted to the Government. An advance payment in gold coin is required of the concessionaire. Interested parties are requested to enter into negotiations directly with the Government at Bogotá.

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### COSTA RICA.

#### EXTRACT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

The following is an extract of the very interesting and comprehensive message of the President of Costa Rica, delivered to the National Congress at San José, on the 1st of May, 1900:

The President states that upon submitting to Congress the present message, it pleases him to be able to assure the nation that the internal affairs of the Republic, as well as its relations with foreign powers, are in every way satisfactory. The condition of the former is largely due to the habits of order and industry which especially characterize the

Costa Rican people, while the latter demonstrates that the Government, in all its official acts with foreign powers, has been inspired with the most profound respect for international law, observing in every case the strictest rules of courtesy, and obtaining, as a consequence, the most frank and cordial relations with other nations.

For the mutual benefit of the Republics, the question of boundary with Colombia, which has been so often the cause of dispute, is on the point of being settled. The President of the French Republic has been chosen as arbitrator, and his decision will be rendered on this important question before the close of the month of September of the present year.

The work of survey and the erection of landmarks on the dividing line between Costa Rica and Nicaragua are about to be completed, the engineer named as arbitrator by the Government of the United States having already decided the question submitted to him by the Nicaraguan Commission concerning the fixing of the center of Salinas Bay as the terminal point of the boundary line. This decision agrees exactly with that arrived at by Mr. GROVER CLEVELAND, acting as arbitrator, and with the surveys which, in due time, were made by the Costa Rican Commission of 1890.

Public instruction, in all its branches, as far as appropriations from the funds of the nation are concerned, has received from the Government especial attention. Primary instruction has been notably encouraged by the founding of new schools in all those centers of population which, by their natural growth, have required them.

As a widening of professional instruction has always been the fervent desire of the Government, the founding of schools of engineering, surveying, and mechanical arts is very much to be desired, and the Department of Public Instruction will submit to Congress during the present session a plan for its fulfillment. This being done, the founding of the university can be accomplished.

The economic situation of the country is in a much more favorable condition at the present time than in former years. This is largely due to the reaction that set in immediately after the crisis, which was of a transitory nature, and which was caused by the sudden fall in the price of coffee in foreign markets, and the consequent contraction and immediate suspension of the ordinary credits extended to national commerce. It was further aggravated by an unusual rise in exchange, the result being financial depression, especially in regard to credits. In a word, the low price of coffee reduced almost one-half the value destined to the liquidation of credits, and the extraordinary rise in the rate of foreign exchange increased in proportion with respect to the nation's money the total outstanding commercial liabilities in favor of foreign countries. Under such unfavorable circumstances it was



impossible to avoid the making of ruinous settlements, which affected deeply the whole economic system of the country.

It was only after the executive decree of the 17th of April last, which ordered the circulation of gold, that the country could appreciate its true situation with a full knowledge of its cause. In proof of the foregoing, there are, on the one hand, statistical data, and, on the other, the sudden and constant fall in the rate of exchange occurring immediately after the promulgation of that decree. By the former it is seen that the total exportations for the year 1899 were, approximately, \$5,000,000 gold, the importations being about \$4,200,000. This leaves a balance in our favor of \$800,000 gold. Furthermore, the rate of exchange on London fell within a period of fifteen days from 150 to 125 per cent.

The amount of gold coin in the Republic on initiating the new monetary system will be amply sufficient to meet the wants of commerce, and at the same time leave sufficient margin for the hoarding of the new money, which, for various reasons, is apt to occur when it is first put into circulation. Five millions in gold *colones* and about 1,000,000 more in national silver money will form the total metallic circulating medium of the country—an amount quite sufficient to guarantee the circulation of the 3,000,000 *colones* in bank notes of the Bank of Costa Rica exchangeable for gold.

At no other time in the history of the nation has the country had so large an amount of money available for circulation. Notwithstanding this, the Government, in its desire to insure the greatest stability in its circulating medium, will soon arrange for the legalization of the circulation of the foreign gold coins of the United States, England, France, and Germany within the confines of the Republic.

After an interval of sixteen years, during which time the fluctuations in international exchange have produced violent perturbations in the monetary system, gold coin again circulates in Costa Rica.

Among the many enterprises in charge of the Department of Public Works, that of the Pacific Railway is of the greatest importance. The value of the work done during the year amounts, approximately, to \$476,000 American gold, of which there was paid in cash to the contractor \$235,000 gold, an amount equivalent, at the present rate of exchange, to \$633,000 of our money. The uncompleted portion of the line to the port of Tivives covers a distance of 59 miles. The grading and masonry work of about 35 miles of this distance are now finished. Of the remaining 24 miles, the work of 5, extending over the most difficult and costly part of the survey, is about half completed. The remaining 19 miles will be comparatively easy to construct. For a distance of 12 miles the track is already laid and ballasted and construction trains are running as far as San Antonio de Belen.

One of the most important works in this line is that of the bridge across the Grande River, the construction of which will commence next November. The completion of this bridge will practically unite the Pacific coast with the interior of the Republic, and the railroad will have overcome the greatest obstacle to its construction.

The President concludes by recommending to the consideration of Congress the necessity of incorporating into the Constitution, as one of its precepts, the basis of the monetary system (established by the monetary law of the 24th of October, 1896), and the absolute prohibition of the issuance of bank bills by the State.

#### NEW BANKING LAW.

The following paragraphs are extracts from the banking law of Costa Rica, enacted on the 25th of April, 1900, and made effective on and after that date:

Every bank, of whatever kind, shall become a joint stock company. The number of shareholders shall not be less than ten, and the capital stock shall be at least 500,000 *colones*. The by-laws shall be submitted to and approved by the Department of Finance, and after having been sanctioned by the Executive Power, they shall be recorded in the "Register of Commerce." The same procedure shall be observed with respect to any amendment or alteration of the by-laws.

No bank shall begin operations unless it shall have on hand in cash, paid in by the shareholders, at least one-half the amount of the capital stock prescribed by the by-laws; nor can it continue in business after the expiration of one year without the payment of the other half.

Banks shall not acquire more real estate than that which may be absolutely necessary for the establishment of their offices and annexes. They may, nevertheless, acquire real property in the payment of debts. The real property acquired in this manner shall be disposed of within a year from the date of its acquisition if it be urban property, and within two years if real property. If the property should not be disposed of within the time already indicated, the Department of Finance, after verifying the date of its acquisition, and without the necessity of other procedure, shall order its sale through the intervention of a notary.

Bank shares shall not be issued to bearer unless their nominal value has been wholly paid. Banks shall neither buy their own shares nor admit them as security, nor perform any operation with them.

The shares issued by the banks shall be recorded in a register kept for that purpose by the respective managers or administrators. In like manner there shall be entered in these registers the transfers or sales of the shares.

Every bank shall create a reserve fund. At least 5 per cent of the yearly net profits shall be destined to this fund, which shall not be used for the payment of dividends.

No bank which may be established in the country shall fix its domicile or place its capital outside of the territory of the Republic.

Companies organized in foreign countries for the purpose of establishing banks of whatever kind in the Republic shall, in their formation, be governed by the provisions of this law. The banks, as well as their shareholders, shall have the character of Costa Ricans, without ever being able to claim the rights of foreigners with relation to the affairs or operations of the banks, and shall always be subject to the laws of the Republic as interpreted by the courts.

Banks which may be established in the country as branches of foreign banks are likewise subject to the foregoing provisions.

No person or company shall place in circulation any document of any kind which shall promise to pay cash, at sight, to the bearer.

Mortgage banks shall not issue bank notes payable to bearer at sight, but they may place in circulation amortizable mortgage bonds, in accordance with the by-laws of the bank, to an amount equal to that represented by the first mortgages issued in favor of the bank.

Only those banks which are not mortgage banks, and whose by-laws concede them such privilege, shall issue bank notes payable to bearer, making the issue in accordance with the provisions of this law.

No bank whose paid-up capital is less than 1,000,000 *colones*, and which at the time of emission has not this amount on hand in national gold coin (the *colon*), shall issue notes payable to bearer.

The total amount of bank notes which a bank may issue shall in no case exceed 75 per cent of its paid-up capital. Reserve funds shall never be considered as capital.

Every bank of issue shall always maintain in its vaults, in national gold coin, a reserve equal to 45 per cent of the amount of its notes in circulation. Deposits subject to sight draft shall not be considered as cash on hand in computing this reserve, but shall be deducted from the actual cash on hand in determining the amount of this reserve.

Bank bills shall be issued only in the following denominations: Five, ten, twenty-five, fifty, one hundred, and five hundred *colones*.

Before proceeding with the issuance of bank notes, the banks must comply with the following formalities:

Manifest in writing and in due form to the Department of Finance the amount and denomination of the notes to be issued, citing the by-laws and other resolutions of the bank which authorize the emission.

Furnish a canceled sample of each denomination of bank notes to be issued.

Furnish, in a closed envelope, bearing the seal of the bank, a description of the engravings, signatures, and counter-signatures of the notes to be issued, and which shall serve as a proof of their genuineness should occasion require it.

The Department of Finance, within a period not to exceed ten days

from the date of the bank's application, shall authorize or refuse the same.

It is not obligatory to receive bank notes in payment for any debt, service, or obligation. Their circulation shall be entirely voluntary.

The notes shall be redeemable in national gold coin on presentation, and the bank shall never refuse payment except for their falsification. The refusal of the immediate payment of the bank's notes for any other reason at once places the bank in a state of bankruptcy.

An official inspector shall be appointed by the Department of Finance, who shall examine the operations of every bank of issue.

Banks established at the present time in the Republic shall have sixty days in which to comply with the provisions of this law. The Bank of Costa Rica is excepted from any of the provisions of this law that may not be in conformity with the provisions of the Quiros-Coronado contract of the 25th of September, 1896, and of the special provisions contained in same, during the life of said contract.

#### INCREASED COFFEE EXPORTS.

"La Gaceta," of San José, official organ of the Republic, in its issue of May 1, 1900, contains the following interesting data regarding the exportation of coffee:

Of the crop gathered in 1899-1900 there were exported, up to the 31st of March last, 12,184,507 kilograms. During the same period of the previous year the exports amounted to 10,752,514 kilograms. A comparison of the quantity of coffee exported in equal periods, taking for example, October to March, shows the following results:

	Kilograms.
1898-1899.....	5,659,645
1899-1900.....	7,680,160

The foregoing figures show a notable increase in the exports of 1899-1900.

#### FOREIGN COMMERCE OF 1899.

The "Bulletin Commercial," Brussels, publishes the following data, sent to it by the Belgian Mission in Central America.

The imports in the Republic of Costa Rica during the year 1899 are distributed in the following manner:

Countries.	Value.	Countries.	Value.
United States .....	\$2,055,728	Chile.....	\$2,061
England .....	745,800	Guatemala .....	1,809
Germany .....	553,792	Cuba.....	1,061
France.....	225,650	Belgium .....	491
Spain.....	98,159	St. Thomas.....	236
Italy.....	72,855	Mexico.....	29
Colombia.....	19,701		
Jamaica.....	18,622	Total.....	3,806,029
Ecuador.....	10,035		

The following table indicates the proportion of the imports furnished by the various importing countries, from 1894 to 1899:

Countries.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
United States .....	33.64	33.85	32.98	33.64	44.80	54.00
England .....	31.77	25.46	29.77	26.92	19.61	19.60
Germany .....	19.21	21.39	21.04	21.01	15.50	14.55
France .....	7.76	7.43	8.92	10.00	10.80	5.90
Spain .....	3.59	6.22	3.83	3.12	3.30	2.60
Italy .....	1.43	1.50	1.70	3.48	1.06	1.91
Other countries .....	2.60	4.15	1.76	1.83	4.93	1.44
Total .....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The banana exports during the last three years were as follows:

Destination.	1897.	1898.	1899.
New York .....	<i>Bunches.</i> 1,127,512	<i>Bunches.</i> 1,496,958	<i>Bunches.</i> 1,142,620
New Orleans .....	804,500	834,078	1,760,202
Philadelphia .....			16,592
Newport News .....			43,357
Total .....	1,932,012	2,331,036	2,962,771

## CUBA.

### REVENUES IN APRIL, 1900.

According to the report of the War Department of the United States the total revenues of the Island of Cuba during the month of April, 1900, were \$1,370,387. The receipts for the month were divided as follows: From customs dues, \$1,257,284; internal revenue, \$79,606; postal services, \$18,459, and from miscellaneous sources, \$15,038.

### CENSUS OF CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES.

The War Department of the United States has issued a statement showing the nationality of the employees of the customs service on the Island of Cuba under the supervision of that Department. From this it is learned that there are 668 employees in this service. Of this number 515 are Cubans, 99 are Spaniards, 50 citizens of the United States, and 4 of other nationalities. Of the 2,254 employees of all kinds under the military government of Cuba at the date of making this report (May 25, 1900) 1,727 were Cubans, 378 citizens of the United States, and 149 Spaniards and others.

### SHIPMENTS OF SCHOOL FURNITURE.

Every steamer sailing for Havana during the month of June and two weeks thereafter, says the "Journal of Commerce," of New York, will take large shipments of school furniture. The shipments

of such merchandise from the port of New York during the month of May, 1900, were valued at nearly \$50,000. The contracts for school furniture were awarded to establishments in the United States some three months ago, and amounted to almost one-half a million of dollars. This furniture required some time for manufacture, and as fast as completed is being forwarded to Cuba.

#### THE PRODUCTION OF TOBACCO.

The Havana correspondent of the "Tobacco Trade Review," of London, says that the belief that the new tobacco crop of the Island of Cuba will be as large as crops used to be before the war with Spain is a mistake. After careful investigation, interviewing leaf dealers, cigar manufacturers, and others besides tobacco buyers, the correspondent estimates the total tobacco crop at from 400,000 to 500,000 bales; and, deducting that portion which is for export, besides other quantities which have to be taken into account, he calculates that the Havana manufactories will have at their disposal about 120,000 bales, a quantity hardly sufficient to make 400,000,000 cigars.

#### THE PAN-AMERICAN MEDICAL CONGRESS.

The International Executive Committee of the Pan-American Medical Congress announces that the next triennial meeting of that body will be held in Havana, Cuba, on December 26, 27, 28, and 29, 1900. Committees are said to be at work in all of the American Republics preparing for this congress, and it is expected that the attendance will be large. It is known that those who will be present from the United States will be more numerous than at any such gathering ever held outside of their own country.

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### ECUADOR.

#### NEW TRADE-MARK LAW.

A new trade-mark law was promulgated in Ecuador in October, 1899. Previously there had been no special law in this Republic relating to this subject.

The law contains the provisions usual in other Republics of South America, which are that applicants must present a petition descriptive of the mark and state the class of goods to which it is intended to be applied. If resident abroad, they must send a power of attorney to some agent in the country, duly attested by a notary public and legalized by an Ecuadorian Consul. Three copies of the mark to be sent. The petition will be published in the "Registro Oficial" of Ecuador. Fees of 25 *suces*, besides certain stamps, must be paid.

No term is mentioned over which protection is given, and it may be assumed that the right to the sole use of a trade-mark in Ecuador exists for as long as the owner continues in business. The right of transfer is given.

#### **VALUABLE SULPHUR MINES.**

Mr. ARCHER HARMAN, the United States concessionaire and builder of the Guayaquil and Quito Railway, has informed the Governor of the Pichinca District that valuable sulphur mines have been discovered in the crater of the extinct volcano of Guaquá-Pichinca. The ownership of these mines will augment considerably the resources already at hand for the prompt completion of the railway.

The deposits, consisting of sublimate and flower of sulphur, are found adhering to the sides of the crater in veins and in some instances in solid blocks of decomposed andesite.

According to the terms of the concession received from the Government, the Guayaquil and Quito Railway Company has denounced this mine, and therefore has the exclusive right of mining.

#### **SALE OF A GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.**

The Government has transferred 65 miles of railroad, between Duran and Chimbo, to the Guayaquil and Quito Railway Company, together with all buildings, shops, grounds, and rolling stock belonging thereto. The amount paid for the property was \$750,000, gold.

#### **CONTRACT FOR STEEL BRIDGE.**

A contract has been made with Messrs. SCHMIDT & ANDA for the construction of a steel bridge over the Guallabamba River at a point near the village of that name. According to the terms of the contract, the material to be used in the erection of this bridge shall be imported free of duties. The structure will weigh about 27,000 pounds and will cost \$20,400.

#### **DESTINATION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES.**

By a Presidential decree the custom-house duties are to be applied to the liquidation war expenses, with the exception of those already destined to public instruction and to the Southern Railway.

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## **GUATEMALA.**

#### **NEW CUSTOMS LAW.**

Decree No. 607, issued by the Executive, reads as follows:

“MANUEL ESTRADA CABRERA, Constitutional President of the Republic, using the powers conceded to the Executive in Decree No. 465 of the National Legislative Assembly, *Decrees*:

“ONLY ARTICLE. In the custom-houses and frontier stations only

seventy (70) per cent will be charged of the total import duties and extras of the merchandise imported into the Republic from the first of July until the thirty-first of December of this year, the thirty (30) per cent reduction going to the importer.

"Given in the Executive Palace, Guatemala, May 15, 1900."

#### DECREES REGARDING BUDGET, LOAN, AND FRUIT TAX.

The National Legislative Assembly has issued Decrees Nos. 463, 464, and 465, according to "El Guatemalteco," of May 2, 1900.

Decree 463 approves the budget for the year July 1, 1900, to June 30, 1901, inclusive, amounting to \$9,611,200.96, distributed as follows:

Legislative power .....	\$54,620.00
Executive .....	72,000.00
Foreign Affairs .....	146,100.00
Interior and Justice .....	1,421,524.00
Finance .....	857,856.00
Public credit .....	2,300,000.00
Development ("Fomento") .....	950,388.00
Public instruction .....	1,513,914.90
War .....	1,998,203.29
Pensions, etc. ("Clases Pasivas") .....	296,594.77

Changes can be made by the Executive according to necessity and the returns of the Revenue Department.

Decree 464: Declares the exportation of fresh fruits of the country to be free from all tax, thus reforming Executive Decree 503, which placed a tax of 10 centavos per bunch on bananas exported.

Decree 465: Authorizes the Executive to make alterations in the fiscal code and other Treasury laws which the Assembly can not at its sessions, on account of their length; and, also, authorization is given to contract a loan not to exceed \$25,000,000 gold, inside or outside of the country, "to open new ways of communication, and finish, preserve, and work those already begun, and for the interest and amortization of the capital of the Interior Debt Bonds, and those of the Northern Railroad."

#### SALE OF COFFEE WARRANTS.

"Le Nouveau Monde," of Paris, reports that the President of Guatemala has approved a contract entered into between the Minister of Finance of the Republic and the management of the Banco de Guatemala, representing a German syndicate formed in Hamburg, with a view to authorizing a continuance of the sale of coffee warrants by this bank. With this object in view, the bank will open a new account under the control of the Director-General of Finances. The product of the sale of the said warrants will be deposited, to the order of the bank, in the Deutsche Bank in Berlin and its London agency, until a decision is arrived at upon the question, at present in suspense, as to



whether the German syndicate is or is not obliged to pay the interest upon the external debt of Guatemala for the six months ending with December 31, 1899.

#### ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The National Assembly (twenty-fifth session) has elected the following as executive officers of the Republic: First Vice-President (designado), Lic. MANUEL MORALES TOBAR; Second Vice-President, Gen. LUIS MOLINA.

#### GUATEMALA COFFEE IN HAMBURG.

Mr. JULIO GARCIA GRANADOS, Guatemalan Consul at Hamburg, Germany, reports to his Government that the South African war is having quite an influence on commerce. Also, that Guatemala coffee was quoted at from 86 to 190 *pfennigs* per kilogram, the average price being next to Java, Mocha, and Porto Rican coffees, which three grades averaged about the same in the German market.

#### NEW FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.

The "Banco de Occidente" has been authorized to place in circulation \$1,000,000 in 50-cent bank notes with the sole object of exchanging them for bank notes of a greater value than \$5, and not as an increase to the issue of bank notes already authorized. These notes are to be engraved in London; "they shall be 13.5 centimeters by 5.8 centimeters, and printed on first-class bank-note paper." The decree authorizes their importation into the Republic free of duty.

#### NEW WAGON ROAD.

A new wagon road is being constructed from Itzacoba into the interior of the Republic. It will pass through the villages of San Surutate, Carrizal, Palo Verde, and Talpetates, uniting with the road that leads to the capital of the Nation at the town of Agua Caliente, jurisdiction of Palencia. This road will be of great use to planters and merchants in the transportation of products and commodities.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

"El Guatemalteco," official organ of the Republic, publishes in its issue of May 9, 1900, a decree authorizing the President to appoint four young men to be educated abroad, at the expense of the Government, as mining engineers. The appointees agree to serve the State for a period of time equal to that employed in the learning of their profession.

According to statistics collected by the Department of Public Works, there were produced in the Republic during the year 1899,

the following: Corn, 2,966,011 quintals; beans, 203,213 quintals; potatoes, 42,589 quintals; wheat, 195,271 quintals; rice, 35,779 quintals.

Mr. O. W. FOLLIN, who has been appointed Guatemalan Vice-Consul at San Diego, California, has been a resident of that country for a number of years, having been connected with the Central Railroad and the customs service.

Two mica mines have been denounced by Mr. EDWARD M. BULFINCH in the Department of Salamá.

A trade-mark convention between Guatemala and Belgium has been entered into.

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## MEXICO.

### TRADE IN TEXTILES AND NOVELTIES.

The following extracts, with reference to one branch of the commerce of Mexico, are taken from a report forwarded to the French Government by Mr. CHARLES STEPHAN, a member of the Board of Trade, residing abroad.

“The trade in cotton textiles and tissues in general, as well as in novelties, involves some of the largest mercantile transactions in Mexico. At the present time this trade is seriously affected by the crisis enveloping textiles, especially cotton, and consequently all manufactured articles containing this product. The local manufacturers, who already sustained with much difficulty the competition of imported articles in consequence of the recent installation of their factories and the date for the liquidation of their first expenses, suffer most.

“The production of cotton in the United States of late years has been enormous, and consequently the prices have been very much depressed, reaching their lowest ebb in 1897-98. This fact discouraged the planters there, and last year the land devoted to this culture was much decreased, while the weather conditions were also unfavorable to production. At the beginning of the exporting season it was believed abroad that the crop had been very abundant, although the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States had given notice to the contrary. This belief on the part of the foreigners resulted in their refusing to buy at the existing prices, while the manufacturers of the United States, relying upon the Secretary's report, bought up the greater part of the disposable cotton, thus placing themselves in an unquestionably more advantageous position than their foreign competitors.

“On March 1, 1900, the amount of cotton in the stocks of Liverpool was 1,000,000 bales less than for March 1 of the preceding year, while

the disposable quantity in the United States was only 150,000 bales more than that for the same period of 1899. At the same time, the quantity of disposable cotton in the entire world, March 1, 1900, showed a decrease of 1,457,000 bales over March 1, 1899.

"The consumption of cotton in Mexico increases from year to year. The imports of cotton from the United States were valued at \$11,000 in the month of October, 1898, while in October, 1899, such imports were valued at \$87,000.

"In spite of this increase, the importation of manufactured cotton products are also increasing. Thus, the United States exported to Mexico in October, 1898, manufactured articles to the value of \$75,000, while in October, 1899, such exports were valued at \$100,000.

"The French articles in demand in Mexico are the satin cloths of Elbœuf and the latest novelties, called "articles for tailors," cloth from Roubaix and Rouen, black and colored merinos, linen handkerchiefs, napkins, duck, calicoes, table linen, light-weight cotton or woolen tissues, knitted cotton undervests, dimities, silk goods, ribbons, and in general all woolen articles, ready-made and partly made clothing, ladies' hats, etc.

"More than 11,000,000 *francs*' worth of textiles and their manufactures are, on the average, exported annually from France, which occupies second place after England, whose exports are more than twice the value of those of France.

"England exports principally Oxford handkerchiefs and imitation Japanese cotton handkerchiefs, dimities, percales, woolen shawls, and blankets.

"The United States sends linen goods, raw cotton, thread, umbrellas, curtains, and furniture coverings.

"Articles from the United States are perhaps better known in this market than those of any other country. This is due to the fact that the Americans have devoted themselves to an intelligent study of the Mexican demands. One of the most characteristic signs is the manner in which they advertise. The United States manufacturers have recognized for a long time that it was useless to try to sell their goods either through the intermediary of agents or by advertising in the trade journals alone. But they have understood and obtained a good result through advertisements reaching not the merchant only, but the consumer directly. The sale of an article would be very limited if this article were only known to merchants, who are not in a position to make it known to many people, as their field of action is limited. It must not be forgotten that the Latin race is essentially conservative, and the Mexicans are not much given to experiments.

"The conditions for the sales of foreign goods in Mexico are 7 per cent discount for cash, or 1 per cent discount if paid in 6 months.

"The packing of goods for export to Mexico is a matter of great

importance. Very often the merchandise remains for a long time in the customhouse, resulting in the exchange of correspondence, delays, lawsuits, fines, etc., and the greatest sufferer is the one to whom the merchandise is destined, for a delay in the receipt of the merchandise can greatly influence trade. It often happens that a cargo is impatiently looked for by the merchants in the interior towns, and consequently their business suffers on account of the delay of the merchandise at the port of entry. All these inconveniences could be avoided if the exporters would conform to the regulations established by the Mexican customhouses.

“These regulations, which relate especially to the trade in textile fabrics, are:

“Each case inclosing the merchandise should bear but one mark and number in order to facilitate its identification, which should be designated in the consular invoice. In addition, however, the name and address of the manufacturer, marked uniformly on the original cases, are tolerated. Violations of this rule are punished by a fine of \$1 per case.

“The net and gross weight and the value of each package should be specified, even when the entire cargo is of the same kind of merchandise. In case a package should contain different articles, the net weight, the legal weight, and the value of each kind, with the tariff corresponding to the article, should be specified.

“It is important to note the difference between the net weight and the legal weight, which includes the baskets, cases, cardboard or light boxes which are used as separate covers for each object. The customs tariff clearly indicates if the duties are levied on the net, legal, or gross weight. The metric system has been in use in Mexico since the 1st of September, 1896.

“When several boxes, bales, or cases are combined so as to form only one shipment, it is necessary to specify: The number of packages thus combined; the separate weight of each; the marks of the several different packages; the number of packages, as well as the gross weight of the entire consignment.

“Relative to the shipments of fabrics, it is necessary to specify the exact length and width of each piece, the precise character of the goods (woolen, cotton, linen, silk, etc.), the net and gross weight of each package and that of each article it contains. The size of the napkins, tablecloths, handkerchiefs, towels, etc., should be expressed in square inches.

“The greatest care should be taken in indicating the exact number of packages sent. The least error over or under the number given in the invoice will result in heavy fines, which are never remitted.”

**THE TOBACCO-PRODUCING DISTRICTS.**

In his interesting study of the "Terre Chaude Mexicaine," which is being published in serial form in the "Nouveau Monde," Paris, Baron MONCHER, Belgian Minister to Mexico, writes, regarding the principal tobacco-producing districts of Mexico, as follows:

"There are three principal districts producing tobacco for export. These are San Andres-Tuxtla; Acayucan, in the State of Vera Cruz, and Tuxtepec, in the State of Oaxaca.

"The tobacco of San Andres-Tuxtla is aromatic and somewhat strong. This region in former years produced fine crops, but the soil is becoming exhausted, while the clearing of the forests modifies the nature of the climate, which is becoming too dry. The north winds often injure the plantations. It is in this district that the largest foreign investments have been made in the cultivation and purchase of tobacco. Belgian houses send agents regularly who buy large quantities of leaf tobacco, which is exported to Antwerp.

"Up to the present time little progress has been made in the processes of curing tobaccos and their classification. The reason for this must be attributed to the fact that the planters, sure of selling their crops at an advantageous price to foreign buyers, did not formerly see the necessity of improving the quality of their production. However, they will now find more difficulty in disposing of their entire yield unless properly prized.

"The production of San Andres-Tuxtla is on the average 80,000 arrobas per year (920,000 kilograms). The cost price averages \$5 per arroba, and the selling price \$9.

"The Acayucan tobacco is less in demand. Large plantations were set out two years ago, but up to the present they have not prospered. Near Acayucan is the Jaltipan region, where formerly the tobacco raised was very much in demand; its culture is now almost abandoned. As to the tobacco cultivated farther south, in the valleys of the San Juan and the Trinidad rivers, the quality is too inferior for exportation.

"The district of Tuxtepec includes the well-known plantations of the Valle Nacional. Among the regions of cultivation are the following: Valle Nacional, Osumacin, Ojitlan, San Domingo, Platanar, Santa Rosa, Usila, Rio Tonto. Tuxtepec owes its wealth to the cultivation of tobacco, which was introduced on a large scale less than twenty years ago. The Valle Nacional plantations belong in part to the Balsa House, which owns also an important cigar factory at Vera Cruz. In 1881 the founder of this house noticed the superior quality of the tobacco leaves which an Indian brought to the market, and in tracing their origin he discovered the land of the Valle Nacional. This valley is above Tuxtepec and twenty years ago it was still covered with trees. At present the valley proper is entirely planted in tobacco, while the

sides of the mountain are still covered with forests. The country now offers a bright and prosperous aspect.

“In the region of Omitlan tobacco is raised on a plateau between the river Quiotepec and the mountain. It is in this region and in the Valle Nacional that the best tobacco is raised for exportation to the United States and Europe. Great progress is being made here, thanks to the careful selection of the seed and the well-built drying rooms.

“The price of land in the regions most favorable to the cultivation of tobacco, as, for example, in the Valle Nacional, is very high, a hectare selling for \$600, Mexican, and even more. The firm of Balsa, which does not cultivate all the lands which it owns in this region, lets it out to planters at a rental of \$20 (50 *francs*) per hectare.

“As the Valle Nacional is entirely under cultivation, it is necessary to go farther up the river to find land in the valleys for new plantations. The value of the uncultivated land varies according to its situation and to its suitability for the cultivation of tobacco. In a valley about 25 kilometers above Tuxtepec new plantations have been established on uncleared lands bought for \$10 per hectare.”

#### DEPOSITS OF ASPHALT.

A dispatch from Tampico to the “New York Commercial” states that Mr. JAMES R. JOHNSON, a banker of Austin, Texas, has obtained a twenty-year lease on extensive deposits of asphalt situated in the State of Tamaulipas, and that a thorough examination of the deposits is being made by experts. The mineral is found in its fluid state at a depth of 10 to 20 feet from the surface. A few wells already have been put down, and the asphalt is flowing from them in steady streams. The indications are that there is a large lake at a short depth. The field is about 60 miles from the Monterey and Mexican Gulf Railroad. The principal expense of placing the asphalt on the market will be the wagon transportation to the railroad.

#### PROSPEROUS EXPRESS COMPANIES.

A dispatch from the City of Mexico dated June 4, 1900, says the Hidalgo Express Company, which operated on the Hidalgo Northern Railroad, has been absorbed by the Interoceanic Express Company. The latter company was organized about three years ago to operate on the Interoceanic Railroad. It has met with great success, and it is expected that it will continue to enlarge its field of operations to other lines of railway in Mexico.

The Wells-Fargo Company does the largest express business in the Republic. This company operates over the Mexican Central, the Mexican International, the Mexico, Cuernavaca and Pacific, and other shorter roads.

The Mexican National Express Company operates over the Mexican National Railroad and its several branches and short connecting lines. This company does a very large business, owing to the fact that it has direct connection at the Texas border with the International and Great Northern road, which is a part of the "Gould system."

#### IMPROVED BREED OF CATTLE.

The United States Consul at Matamoras is authority for the statement that the importation of many pure-bred cattle from the United States into Mexico is resulting in a marked improvement in the long-horned native types. It is the prevailing opinion that a cross between the pure-blooded cattle of the north and the native stock produces a large, healthy, vigorous offspring, with an unusually compact muscular development.

#### HARBOR WORKS AT MAZATLAN.

Good progress is being made in the harbor improvements at Mazatlan, on the Pacific coast, under the direction of the Federal Government. This city is one of the most prominent ports, as regards the volume of commerce, on the Pacific coast of the Republic, and it is believed to have a most promising future. The Mexican International Railroad is now being extended from Durango to Mazatlan.

#### EXPORT OF IXTLE.

The ixtle fiber industry in the city of Saltillo is of great importance. The annual exportation of this fiber amounts to more than 5,000,000 pounds. It is shipped to the United States, England, and Germany principally, though small amounts go to other countries. There are numerous small establishments in Saltillo which weave the fiber into matting, cloth, etc.

#### DISCOVERY OF A PREHISTORIC CITY.

Another prehistoric city, covering several hundred acres, has been discovered near the Indian village of Teocaltiche. The ruins are almost completely covered with soil deposits, but the excavations so far made, says the "Guatemala Herald," show that the discovery is of great archaeological importance. The ruins are on two hills. One the Indians designate *Cerro de los Antiguos*, the "Hill of the Ancients," and the other they call *El Cerro Encantado*, the "Enchanted Hill." Around these two elevations flows a rivulet bearing the name *El Tesoro*, the "Treasure." The "Hill of the Ancients" is a natural formation, while the "Enchanted Hill" is the work of the mound builders or some other of the ancient inhabitants of Mexico.

**CONCESSION FOR A BANKING ESTABLISHMENT.**

The Mexican Government has granted a concession for the establishment of an agricultural and mortgage bank in the City of Mexico, with the privilege of opening branches in other States of the Republic. The capital of the new bank is \$2,000,000, but this amount must be increased before the expiration of the first year to \$5,000,000. As a guaranty for the fulfillment of the terms of the concession, the banking company must deposit in the National Treasury \$100,000 in 3 per cent consolidated Government bonds, and \$75,000 in internal debt 5 per cent national bonds, which will be returned as soon as the bank commences operations.

The special object of the bank will be to make loans on rural and urban property. The concession is granted for fifty years from March 19, 1897. The promoters are well-known bankers and Mexican capitalists, and the bank will meet an especial need in the particular field in which it will operate. Full particulars of the concession are contained in the "Diario Oficial" of May 3, 1900.

**MEXICAN TOBACCO IN SOUTH AMERICA.**

The Mexican Consul in Valparaiso has been asked to give information relative to the Mexican tobacco crops, as it is desired to enter into closer commercial relations with Chile. The Government has sent the Consul at Valparaiso samples of tobacco, at the same time informing him the quantity on hand of each sample for exportation. It is believed that the demand of the Mexican Consul will lead to further developments of Mexican trade in South America. Some of the principal Mexican business houses have sent their agents to Central America to push trade in those regions.

**SUBSIDY TO THE CHIHUAHUA AND PACIFIC RAILWAY.**

The Mexican Government has granted a subsidy to the Chihuahua and Pacific Railway Company. The subsidy applies only on 700 kilometers of the most expensive and difficult part of the line. The road is divided into three sections. The first covers a distance of 200 kilometers, and the second and third 250 kilometers each. The first section is already completed, extending from the city of Chihuahua to the station of Miñaca; the second section is an extension of the first, and the third section ends in the port of Topolobampo, State of Sinaloa.

The first section will receive a subsidy of \$1,400,000 in amortizable 5 per cent bonds of the interior debt, the second section \$3,000,000, and the third section \$1,350,000 of these same bonds. The first section is already constructed and approved, the second section must be



completed within three years from April 27, 1900, and the entire road must be in operation within two years thereafter.

The full text of this concession was published in the "Diario Oficial" of May 10, 1900.

#### PATENT FOR ROTARY AMALGAMATOR.

Mr. ALFONZO Z. BALDENEBRO, of the City of Mexico, has been granted a patent by the United States Government for a "rotary amalgamator." This is described as follows by the "Scientific American" of June 9, 1900:

"After escaping through the bottom of a channel, the material is spread upon a table, owing to the rotation of which it runs down in spiral lines. During this travel it is subjected to the action of streams of water delivered from various nozzles and also to the action of mercury. The amalgamated surface of the table will retain a very large proportion of the valuable material. The potassium cyanide will dissolve some of the gold and the solution can be treated in any approved manner.

#### MINING NOTES.

According to a Mexican trade journal, the latest purchase by the Rothschilds house in Mexico in the mining line is the magnificent group of copper mines in the State of Coahuila, for which a sum of \$600,000 was paid. The same house had previously invested about \$14,000,000 in Mexican copper mines. It owns the Boleo mines, in Lower California, and the not less famous ones of Inguaran, in the State of Michoacan.

In a recent issue of "Modern Mexico" it is pointed out that many old Spanish mines are now being worked in Mexico. Very few of these are bonanza properties. The Spaniards did not overlook large bodies of rich ore. Nevertheless, large quantities of low-grade ore have been left, which might be worked with a fair profit.

Coal deposits have been discovered in the western part of the State of Tabasco. The carboniferous region includes the municipalities of Macuxpana, Jalpa, and San Juan Bautista, and embraces a territory about 150 kilometers long by 80 kilometers wide.

Two French companies have purchased gold mines in the mountains of San Pedro, State of Sonora. This region is being extensively explored by American prospectors, and many new claims have been staked. The district is a gold region of great promise.

Rich argentiferous ores carrying gold have been discovered in Batipeta, State of Sonora. The Mormons, who have a settlement in that district, are doing considerable prospecting and development work in that vicinity.

The mining district of Tezuitlán, State of Puebla, is being care-

fully prospected. This district is celebrated for its copper ores, and is a region of great promise.

### INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

There are nine tanneries in the City of Mexico, all of which are equipped with modern machinery. Within the last few years there has been a great improvement in the quality of the leather prepared by these tanneries, and a notable increase in its consumption. Formerly nearly all of the leather was imported, but now large quantities of the home product are used by the manufacturers.

The Mexican Government has made a contract with the Laguna Soap Company for the establishment of a glycerine factory near the City of Mexico. The contract authorizes the manufacture of nitroglycerine and dynamite. The company must begin the construction of the factory within a period of six months, and complete it before the expiration of two years.

A group of well-known capitalists has formed a stock company and asked of the Ministry of Public Works the necessary authority for the establishment of a large mill for making tinted papers, the first factory of this kind to be established in Mexico. The board of directors is only awaiting a favorable answer of the Ministry to at once begin the construction.

It is said that a sugar refinery will soon be established in the Republic. It will have departments for the manufacture of granulated sugar, and will be equipped with the most modern and improved machinery. The capital to be invested will not be less than \$250,000.

A communication from Mr. SYDENHAM P. HENRIQUES, from San Luis Potosi, Mexico, dated May 29, 1900, informs the Bureau of the American Republics that he has placed orders for over \$35,000, Mexican, worth of material for the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of blankets. The contracts were entered into in the firm name of FERNANDEZ & FERRER, of San Luis Potosi, but the factory will be situated in Linares, and will be under the general management of Mr. ALBERT T. EDGERLY, a citizen of the United States.

A brick manufactory is to be established in the State of Coahuila. It will be located in the municipality of Matamoros de la Laguna. The plant will cost \$40,000, and is exempt from municipal and State taxes for a period of ten years.

It is estimated that about \$15,000,000 have been invested in the vicinity of Monterey within the last three months. The greater part of this amount will be used in the establishment of manufacturing plants.

Vera Cruz is to have an electric street railway. The contract has been let and work will soon be commenced. The installation will be modeled after that of the plant in operation in the City of Mexico.

CHARLES KAESTNER & Co., of Chicago, have sold to the "Compañía Industrial Manufacturera," at El Castillo, a modern starch-making plant capable of handling 36,000 pounds of corn daily.

The brewery which is now being built at Mazatlan will have a daily capacity of 60 barrels, and, in addition, an ice plant and a bottle factory.

The cotton factory which is being erected at Atlixco, State of Puebla, will be placed in operation early in July.

#### FRESH-WATER PEARL FISHERY CONCESSION.

The "Diario Oficial" of May 26, 1900, publishes the contract entered into by the Department of Public Works, in representation of the nation, and Señor FÉLIX DÍAZ, authorizing the latter to search for pearls in the rivers of the States of Vera Cruz, Tabasco, and Campeche, as well as in the territory tributary to the Usumacinta River, in the State of Chiapas. The duration of the contract is ten years.

#### EXPLOITATION OF GUANO DEPOSITS.

The Government has made a contract with an English company for the exploitation of the recently discovered guano deposits in the Cliperton Islands, which was noted in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for April, 1900, page 604. At the present time there are about seventy Japanese laborers employed in preparing the article for shipment. Steamers call twice a month to transport the guano extracted to the market.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The total custom-house receipts of the Republic during the month of March, 1900, were \$2,533,464.58. The export duties amounted to \$87,767.93, the import duties to \$2,359,713.67, and the port duties, etc., to \$85,982.98.

The Princeton University, on June 13, 1900, conferred the degree of Master of Arts upon Mr. JOSÉ ROMERO, Second Secretary of the Mexican Embassy at Washington.

"El Correo de Sonora" is authority for the statement that a cable will soon be laid across the Gulf of California, connecting the mainland with the peninsula.

By order of the President the mint at Guanajuato will be closed on the 1st of next July. There will be established in its place a Government assay office.

On May 29, 1900, the United States Patent Office granted to EMILIO ZERTUCHE, of Puebla, Mexico, a patent (No. 650,445) on an insulator.

During the month of April, 1900, there were exported from Progreso 38,988 bales of henequen, valued at \$1,914,755, Mexican.

The fruit growers in the State of Jalisco are proposing to begin the exportation of lemons on a large scale to the United States.

During the past twelve months the exportations of goatskins from Saltillo have been valued at \$450,000.

The Piedras Verde River, near Casas Grandes, State of Chihuahua, is to be stocked with fish.

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## NICARAGUA.

### MARKETS OF NICARAGUA.

The following data relative to the commerce and business in Nicaragua, sent by the Belgian Mission in Central America to the "Bulletin Commercial," of Brussels, was published in its issue of May 12, 1900.

This report states that the imports into Nicaragua consist principally of cotton and woolen goods, wines and liquors, flour, crockery, glassware, drugs and pharmaceutical products, wire fencing, canned goods, coffee bags, etc.

Classified according to their importance, the principal importing countries are: England, United States, Germany, and France. England figures for about 50 per cent in the total importation.

The exports, consisting especially of coffee, bananas, gold, wood, cattle, skins, etc., are directed principally to the four above-mentioned countries, with this difference, however, that England, Germany, and the United States, which come first, all figure for about the same amount. The Nicaraguan trade with Belgium is unimportant.

### PARCELS POST CONVENTION IN FORCE.

The Parcels Post Convention between the United States and Nicaragua, which was signed by President McKINLEY and the Postmaster-General of the United States on March 28, 1900, was received at the Nicaraguan Legation in Washington on June 1. The document, which then bore the additional signatures of President ZELAYA, of Nicaragua, and the Nicaraguan Minister of Internal Affairs, was delivered to the United States postal authorities that afternoon. The convention went into effect on June 2 and prescribes the same regulations for the exchange of parcels between Nicaragua and the United States as are now in force between Germany and the United States and several of the English colonies and the United States.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Government has published a Decree authorizing the acceptance of a voluntary national loan of \$600,000, to be used in the construction of a railroad from Ciudad Rama to Gran Lago.

A law has been passed forbidding the entrance of Chinese into the Republic. The violation of this law is punishable by a \$500 fine.

The San Antonio sugar-cane plantation at Chichigalpa produced during the present season 35,000 quintals of sugar.

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PERU.

## CONCESSION FOR A WHARF AT CHIMBOTE.

The Peruvian Government has granted a concession to Señor VICTOR PEZET for the construction of an iron wharf with a wooden superstructure at the port of Chimbote. The principal conditions of this concession are, in substance, as follows :

The concessionaire shall construct, at his own risk and expense, the works specified in the report of Engineer VIÑAS, dated January 7, 1896, making such modifications in the plans as will tend to secure greater stability to the structure and at the same time render it more suitable for the purpose for which it was intended.

The work of construction shall be commenced within a period of time not to exceed six months from the date of the signing of the contract, and shall be completed within twelve months thereafter; that is to say, the total time allowed for construction shall not exceed eighteen months, except when, in the opinion of the Government, delays have been caused by unavoidable circumstances, or *force majeure*.

The concessionaire shall pay for each month's delay, either in the commencement or conclusion of the work, a fine of 100 *soles*. If there should be more than six months' delay in the time specified the Government may declare the concession forfeited without the payment of any indemnification whatever.

After the signing of the contract there shall be delivered to the concessionaire an inventory of the part of the wharf existing at the present time, together with all the tools belonging thereto, in order that they may be utilized in the work of construction, with the understanding that if they are not used they shall remain subject to the disposition of the Government.

The work of construction shall be carried forward under the direction of an engineer appointed by the Government, and the wharf shall not be opened for public use without first having been carefully examined.

During the construction of the wharf all materials imported, in accordance with an act of the Congress of the 17th of September, 1897, shall be exempt from the payment of either Federal or municipal taxes.

The concessionaire shall operate the wharf for a period of twenty-five years, subject to the restrictions contained in the next paragraph. At the expiration of this time the wharf, in good condition, with all its materials and annexes, shall revert to the State.

The Government expressly reserves the privilege of purchasing the rights of the concessionaire, after the expiration of fifteen years, for the sum of 42,000 *soles*, in accordance with the estimate of Engineer VIÑAS, deducting 5 per cent for each year, calculating from the sixth, inclusive, to the twenty-fifth year of the contract. The amount indicated shall not be increased, not even under the pretext of the greater cost which may be occasioned by the improvement of the wharf.

During the life of the concession the Government shall not permit the construction of any other wharf within the Bay of Chimbote, and the concessionaire shall have the right to prevent the loading or unloading of freight in said port.

The tariff which shall govern in the use of the wharf shall be that now in force at the port of Supe, approved on the 26th of September, 1896, with the following modifications:

	<i>Sols.</i>
For each sack of sugar containing 105 kilos.....	0. 10
For brown sugar ( <i>chancaca</i> ) in cakes 92 kilos.....	. 10
For each lot of 100 ties.....	3. 50

It is understood that the prices fixed in the tariff include all charges for loading or unloading from the land to the ship's side and vice versa, regardless of whether the merchandise, baggage, or any other object be transported over all or part of the wharf.

The wharf and the material of which it is composed shall be preserved in good condition, and shall be painted at least once every two years. The concessionaire agrees to do all the work of repairs that may be necessary, including damages caused by storms, without being able for such causes to claim indemnification or modification of the contract.

The use of the wharf shall be free to the State, and the Peruvian Company, Limited, shall have free use of the same, in accordance with clause 6 of the contract of the 11th of January, 1890.

The concessionaire, as a guaranty for the fulfillment of the obligations assumed in this contract, shall make a deposit of 20,000 (nominal) *soles* in bonds of the internal debt, which shall be returned as soon as the Government shall declare the work completed. The contract is transferable with the consent and approbation of the Government.

The full text of this concession is to be found in "El Peruano," official organ of the Peruvian Government, in its issue of May 12, 1900.

**EXPLOITATION AND COLONIZATION CONCESSION.**

The Peruvian Government has entered into a contract with Mr. LIONEL RUPERT STUART WEATHERBY for the exploitation of the Napo and Cururay rivers and contiguous territory, in the department of Loreto. The territory embraced in the contract covers an area of 50,000 hectares on each one of the rivers named. Mr. WEATHERBY agrees to settle these lands with English colonists. The concession also grants him mining privileges in the unexplored part of the Santiago River.

In compliance with the terms of the concession, he must pay into the National Treasury the sum of 2 *sols* for each 46 kilograms of rubber exported, in addition to the exportation duties and any other taxes in force at the present time, or which may be established in the future affecting this article. The concessionaire is prohibited from cutting down and destroying rubber trees.

After the boundary has been fixed and the corner stones placed, the concessionaire shall have the right to acquire 300 hectares of land for each family of not less than three persons. The 100,000 hectares shall be divided into lots of 10,000 hectares each.

The lands covered by the concession may be used at any time by the Government for the construction of roads or public buildings. Fifty families must be settled upon the lands within a period of three years from the time of signing the contract.

For the construction of highways, railroads, telegraph lines, and steamboat navigation routes the concessionaire must obtain the approval and consent of the Government. As a guaranty for the faithful performance of the contract the concessionaire must deposit in the Treasury at Lima 102,500 *sols* in bonds of the internal debt, which shall be refunded at the rate of 300 *sols* for each colonist settled in conformity with the conditions of the contract.

**CONCESSIONS FOR BRIDLE ROADS.**

It is reported from Lima that the Government of the Republic has contracted with the "Société Anonyme Industriale Financière Américaine Sud," of Paris, for the construction of a bridle road. This road is to have a width of 2 meters, with necessary culverts and bridges, from Marcapata to navigable points on the rivers Mambari and Pilo-pata. This will make a highway not less than 250 kilometers in length. A concession of 50,000 hectares of land, valued at 5 *sols* (\$2.18) per hectare, is made to this company, which is authorized to enforce a schedule of tolls and to build railroad and telegraph lines.

A contract has been made for the construction of a wagon road from the village of Bahua-chica to a point on the Marañón River below its junction with the Manseriche River. The opening of this road will

facilitate trade between the departments of Cajamarca and Amazonas and will be of the greatest benefit to agriculture. The road must be completed within in a period of two years.

#### **PRESERVATION OF NOTARIAL DOCUMENTS.**

"El Peruano," official organ of the Peruvian Government, in a late issue contains the full text of the Presidential Decree of January 27, 1900, establishing a central office in Lima for the filing and conservation of notarial documents. This decree has been promulgated for the better protection of the records kept in the various notarial offices of the Republic. Heretofore these records have been exposed to loss by fire, accident, or theft, but by the provisions of this decree a safe place has been provided for them.

#### **RUBBER-LAND CONCESSIONS.**

The Government has decided that concessions for rubber lands can not be transferred without the original concessionaires having previously obtained the consent of the national executive officers. The penalty is the forfeiture of the contract.

#### **INCREASED BANK CAPITAL.**

The Peru International Bank has recently considerably increased its capital by the issuance of new shares. These were all taken by local capitalists.

#### **PURCHASES OF ELECTRICAL MATERIAL.**

The "Journal of Commerce," of New York, reports that the General Electric Company during the month of May, 1900, shipped to Peru upward of \$55,000 worth of electrical machinery and apparatus. To Lima alone one shipment about the middle of the month was valued at \$30,000. This is said to be one of the largest month's transactions ever made with that country in electrical appliances. Most of the apparatus sent is for use in electric-light plants already in existence in the country. An interesting feature of this trade is that all of it is transacted cash against bill of lading.

#### **PERUVIAN CONSUL IN NEW YORK.**

A dispatch from Lima dated June 1, 1900, states that the Government of Peru has appointed FREDERICK A. PEZOT Peruvian Consul at New York.



## SALVADOR.

## RECEPTION OF MINISTER ZALDÍVAR.

On June 4, 1900, Señor Dr. Don RAFAEL ZALDÍVAR, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Salvador near the Government of the United States, presented his credentials to President McKINLEY, and in doing so said:

"I have the honor, and it affords me great pleasure, to greet, in your person, the President of the Great American Republic, into whose hands I have just placed the credentials which furnish evidence of my appointment to represent (El) Salvador, near Your Excellency's Government, in the capacity of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

"Since it is a pleasant diplomatic custom to exchange, on an occasion like this, a few phrases of courtesy and friendship, permit me, Mr. President, to do so now with all the sincerity of an honest man and faithful friend of the United States of America, in order to tell you of the great interest which is taken by my Government in maintaining and drawing closer, in fraternal reciprocity, the cordial relations of peace, commerce, and amity that unite my country to this great American people, whose constant progress in science and art, in connection with the development of human happiness, causes the admiration of both natives and foreigners.

"It shall be my very special care to maintain those friendly relations on the best footing that can be desired, relying, as I know that I can rely, upon the absolute loyalty of my Government and upon the good will and strict uprightness of the Government which you direct, with the assistance of statesmen possessing so high a degree of intelligence. My chief attention shall be devoted to extending and facilitating the growing commerce between our two Republics. Peace, the desired peace of industry and of political and commercial activity, appears to be permanently established in Salvador under the fostering care of the government of General TOMÁS REGALADO, who recognizes and guarantees the rights of those who have formed associations for business purposes; thus it is that industry has revived and that commerce has assumed no inconsiderable proportions.

"The struggle between our different nationalities is a hard one. Defects in education, obsolete laws, and even the very atmosphere in which we live—everything seems to conspire against us. The exchange of productions is the beginning of the exchange of ideas, and with new ideas for the modern struggle for life and progress, we think that we can place our Republic in a condition to shine modestly, but

permanently, among the best of its sisters in America. Hence our desire to afford security (security above everything else) to foreign capital, which comes to us in the shape of hands that cultivate the land, that toil in the mines, or engage in the raising of cattle or arrives there in the shape of goods, tools, and utensils, or, finally, is conveyed there in specie, by means of bills of exchange, the convenient check, and the ounce of gold, whose fixed price is the guaranty of transactions taking place on credit—that is to say, a guaranty of the credit which is the modern lever of Archimides, with which the world is moved.

“Finally, Mr. President, the Republic of Salvador, which I have the honor to come to represent near Your Excellency and your country, hopes to continue to derive from its friendly relations with the United States of America the benefits which a valuable friendship can secure by the mere force which great things bring with them. The Republic of Salvador does not fear, but eagerly seeks, great friendships.

“There is in our country, we are convinced, Mr. President, that among nations the most expressive and true sentence is that which wisdom placed in the mouth of an immortal poet, viz, ‘The friendship of a great man is a blessing that comes from the gods.’”

In response, President McKINLEY said:

“It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Capital in the capacity of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and to receive at your hands the credentials which give evidence of this appointment from His Excellency the President of the Republic of Salvador.

“I am glad to learn of the peace and prosperity which Salvador now enjoys under the enlightened government of General REGALADO, and I trust that these conditions may long continue to contribute to the happiness and prosperity of the people of Salvador.

“You are right, Mr. Minister, in counting upon the friendly disposition of this Government and of the people of the United States to do all in their power to foster, and, if possible, increase the friendly relations which now so happily subsist between our two Republics.

“It will be my pleasure to cooperate with you to that beneficent end.”

#### NEW PRESIDENTIAL CABINET.

The Government of Salvador has notified the Department of State of the United States that Señor Don FRANCISCO A. REYES has been appointed Minister of Foreign Relations and Justice, and that Dr. RUBEN RIBERA was appointed Minister of War, Navy, and Interior. The other members of the Cabinet, according to the “Guatemala Herald,” are Dr. A. NAVAS, Minister of Finance and Development, and Dr. JOSÉ TRIGUEROS, Minister of Public Work and Instruction.

## NEW SHIPPING LAW.

Under date of May 31, 1900, Mr. ERNEST SCHERNIKOW, Vice-Consul of the Republic of Salvador in New York City, forwards the Bureau of the American Republics the following explanation of the new law governing the shipments of merchandise to that country:

“The law will go into effect on July 6, 1900. Invoices for shipments must be made out according to this law, beginning with steamer sailing from New York on June 5. Invoice blanks to be obtained at the office of the Vice-Consul.

The principle articles of the new law are as follows:

“ARTICLE 1. Shippers of merchandise from foreign countries into the Republic, even if the same be free of duty, will make four (4) invoices, written in Spanish, containing:

“(a) Name and residence of sender; names of vessel and captain, port of destination, consignee, and that of the person or firm for whose account and risk shipment is made.

“(b) Mark and consecutive number of package.

“(c) Kind of packages (either bags, boxes, or bales, etc.).

“(d) Gross weight of each package in kilos; the weight and price of machinery, wood, and iron may be stated in bulk.

“(e) Description of merchandise contained in each package, also country of origin.

“(f) Value of merchandise, in currency of the country from which shipped.

“(g) In sending wine or liquors the alcoholic degree contained therein must be expressed.

“ART. 2. Consuls will not accept invoices with writing between lines, imperfections, corrections, or erasures, unless noted at foot of invoice by the sender; otherwise a fine of \$1 shall be imposed for each defective copy.

“ART. 3. To state in one invoice two or more packages under one mark, bearing the same number, is prohibited, excepting unpacked iron in any form, lumber, and machinery. It is also prohibited to declare in one invoice merchandise intended for two or more persons.

“ART. 4. Consular invoices having a legal value before the courts, and for investigations which may occur, senders of merchandise must make the following statement *in writing* at the foot of each invoice:

“(The full name of shipper or shippers must be written here) \_\_\_\_\_ *jura y declara* (swears and declares) \_\_\_\_\_ *bajo su palabra de honor, que* (upon his word of honor that) \_\_\_\_\_ (mine or our). *Factura que precede, consta de* (foregoing invoice consists of) \_\_\_\_\_ *folio* \_\_\_\_\_ *comprende* (covering) \_\_\_\_\_. *Bulto con peso en junto, de* (packages whose gross weight is) \_\_\_\_\_ *kilogramos, y valor total de* (kilograms and a total value of) \_\_\_\_\_; (here the value in currency of the

country from which the merchandise is shipped) *que la marca y número de cada bulto, el peso y el contenido de las mismas, y el precio con que aparecen, son los mismos que tienen los bultos remitidos, y con los que figuran en* (that the mark and number of each package, the weight and contents of the same, and the price at which invoiced are the same as those of the packages shipped, and which appear in) ——— (mine or our) *libros* (books); *y que la suma porque van asegurados, es de* (and that the amount for which they are insured is) ——— (here the value of insurance).'

"ART. 5. Consuls will only certify invoices for shippers who either personally, or through their legal agent, will appear to sign the sworn declaration relative to merchandise bought or supplied.

"Consuls will not certify invoices for shipping agents or private parties, as the principal object of the present law is to prevent fraud as much as possible, and to see that declarations are genuine and properly signed only by the legitimate correspondents of the merchants of El Salvador, who must be either buyers or suppliers of the merchandise shipped.

"ART. 6. A false declaration regarding the weight, contents of package, description of merchandise, price of same, or of anything else prescribed by the present law, as well as the violation of what is already resolved in Art. 3, will be punished according to the law on the subject. A false declaration in regard to the amount insured shall be punished by seizure.

"ART. 8. Consular fees are to be as follows, the dollar to be estimated at par:

"For invoices up to \$25, \$1; over \$25 up to \$100, \$2; over \$100 up to \$500, \$4; over \$500 up to \$1,000, \$6; over \$1,000, 25 cents for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof up to \$5,000; over \$5,000, 10 cents for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.

"Any further information on the subject may be obtained at the office of the Vice-Consul."

#### NEW TARIFF DECREE.

The National Assembly has enacted the following law, which was published in the official gazette of April 5, 1900:

"The National Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Salvador, considering:

"That, in consequence of the decrease in value of certain products, the revenues produced at the present time are not sufficient to supply the requirements of the Public Administration; that, owing to the same cause, there remains a considerable deficit, which it is impossible to cover without having recourse to fresh obligations; and that the present business conditions are such as to warrant a proportional increase of the duties on imported goods;

“Therefore, in virtue of the power therein vested, decrees:

“ARTICLE 1. That the duties heretofore collected in the custom-houses of the Republic, upon the importation of foreign merchandise, shall be raised to 150 per cent.

ART. 2. The Executive is empowered to lower the said duties when circumstances permit of this being done or the condition of business demands it.

“ART. 3. The present decree takes effect from the date of its publication.

“Given in the chamber of the National Legislative Assembly, in San Salvador, on the 3d day of April, in the year 1900.”

The British Minister sent a dispatch on April 26, 1900, to his home Government stating that “articles which are classed in the tariff law of Salvador as dutiable, for example, at the rate of \$1 per kilogram, have hitherto paid, owing to additional charges, imposts, etc., \$1.55 per kilogram; so that in the future the actual amount to be paid for every nominal dollar of duty imposed under the Salvadoran tariff will be \$1.80.”

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## SANTO DOMINGO.

### PRESENTATION OF MINISTER VASQUEZ.

On June 9, 1900, Señor FRANCISCO VASQUEZ presented his credentials to President MCKINLEY at the White House in Washington, as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Santo Domingo near the Government of the United States. After handing these papers to the President and announcing the facts concerning his appointment, the Minister said:

“The especial mission with which my Government has honored me is a new proof of the sincere friendship which it cherishes toward the American people, and of the desire which animates it to draw more closely upon solid commercial foundations the fraternal bonds which happily have thus far united them. The different productions of both countries, as well as their neighborhood, have made my Government believe that it would be of mutual advantage for both countries to celebrate a commercial treaty which might increase the good and cordial relations which have united them. I am especially charged to present to Your Excellency in the name of the President of the Dominican Republic his most sincere wishes, as well as my own, for your personal happiness, and the expression of his enthusiastic admiration for the great Republic of the North.”

In accepting the credentials and in response to the remarks of Señor VASQUEZ, President MCKINLEY spoke as follows:

“It gives me pleasure to receive at your hands the letters of cre-

dence by which the President of the Dominican Republic accredits you as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary near this Government. I am glad to recognize in this special mission a new proof of the friendship which unites the two Republics. I cordially reciprocate the wishes of your Government for closer and still more advantageous commercial relations.

"I beg you will convey to His Excellency the President of the Dominican Republic my best wishes and those of the people of the United States for the prosperity and happiness of the Dominican people, and I trust that your residence here will be found pleasant and profitable."

#### EXPORTATION DUTIES ON NATIVE WOODS.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN is indebted to the courtesy of Señor Don JOSÉ G. GARCÍA, Honorary Corresponding Member of the International Union of American Republics in Santo Domingo, for the following information:

Señor GARCÍA writes that the decree of the 27th of April, 1900, repeals the exportation duty on Campeachy wood. He further states that the tariff of the 12th of April, 1899, with respect to the exportation duties on other woods, has undergone the following modifications:

El Abey (a species of mahogany) will pay an exportation duty, per 1,000 feet, of \$1; La Bera, per ton, 50 cents; Brazilian wood, per ton, 50 cents; mahogany, in logs, per 1,000 feet, \$5; mahogany, in *horquetas* (cuts of the timber where the tree forks—Y-shaped pieces), per 1,000 feet, \$7; cedar, oak, and similar woods, per 1,000 feet, 50 cents; espinillo, in logs and *horquetas*, per 1,000 feet, \$5; lignum-vitæ (Guayacan), per ton, \$2; mulberry, per ton, \$1; yaya, per ton, \$1.50.

It is understood that the differences that may result from this exportation tariff, with respect to that in force up to the 9th of August, 1897, shall have the same application as that of the decree of the 12th of April, 1899; that is to say, the increase which may occur in the exportation by reason of the new tariffs shall be applied to the amortization of the paper money retired from circulation.

#### POSTAGE ON PRINTED MATTER.

The National Congress, by resolution, adopted April 3, 1900, has placed the following charges upon national publications (printed matter) circulating within the confines of the Republic:

"One cent, American gold, for each 150 grams weight, and one-fourth of a cent for each newspaper or for each fraction of that weight. The postage on urban correspondence shall be at the rate of 1 cent, gold, for each 150 grams or fraction thereof, and the postage on printed matter in this same branch shall be one-half of a cent, American gold, for each 150 grams, and one-fourth of a cent for each fraction of that weight."

## NEW MINISTER OF WAR AND NAVY.

Gen. FRANCISCO ANTONIO GOMEZ Y MOYA, Governor of Samaná, has been appointed Minister of War and of the Navy, vice General José BRACHE, who retires to his residence at Mora, Province of Cibas.

## UNITED STATES.

## TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

## STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of April, 1900, with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of the previous year; also for the ten months ending April, 1900, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1899. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the complete returns for April, for example, are not published until some time in June.

## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	April—		Ten months ending April—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Chemicals:</b>				
Logwood ( <i>Palo campeche; Páu campeche; Campeche</i> )—				
Mexico .....	\$372	\$593	\$18,932	\$13,241
Coal, bituminous ( <i>Carbón bituminoso; Carvão bituminoso; Charbon de terre</i> ):				
Mexico .....	18,860	7,127	209,243	113,035
Cocoa ( <i>Cacao; Coco ou cacao cru; Cacao</i> ):				
Central America .....		1,153	8,597	9,676
Brazil .....	28,578	67,505	629,184	946,771
Other South America .....	94,974	62,371	1,033,396	1,182,800
Coffee ( <i>Café; Caffé; Caffé</i> ):				
Central America .....	841,089	885,137	3,835,426	3,594,552
Mexico .....	356,628	490,291	1,959,477	2,691,557
Brazil .....	2,800,872	3,784,188	29,343,143	32,058,624
Other South America .....	609,233	546,323	5,714,647	3,746,513
Cotton, unmanufactured ( <i>Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé</i> ):				
South America .....	28,789	47,072	120,521	262,607
<b>Fibers:</b>				
Sisal grass ( <i>Henequen; Hennequen; Hennequen</i> )—				
Philippine Islands .....	924,817	673,292	2,713,872	3,613,474
Mexico .....	885,231	1,041,503	7,379,376	9,049,464
<b>Fruits:</b>				
Bananas ( <i>Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes</i> )—				
Central America .....	187,132	208,522	1,405,122	1,770,037
South America .....	94,989	92,236	437,366	824,415

## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	April—		Ten months ending April—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Fruits—Continued.</b>				
Oranges ( <i>Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges</i> )—				
Mexico.....	\$262	\$121	\$137,035	\$184,459
<b>Fur skins (<i>Pieles finas; Pelles; Fourrures</i>):</b>				
South America.....	8,161	.....	126,623	113,191
<b>Hides and skins (<i>Cueros y pieles; Coutos e pelles; Cuirs et peaux</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	21,057	44,889	225,825	408,590
Mexico.....	140,719	170,338	1,558,460	2,034,581
South America.....	1,395,069	635,829	8,239,007	9,206,074
<b>India rubber, crude (<i>Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	96,075	82,208	701,445	674,085
Mexico.....	17,798	26,322	102,311	180,427
Brazil.....	608,874	1,267,170	14,518,033	15,822,132
Other South America.....	105,175	41,478	803,564	804,378
<b>Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. (<i>Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em linguaços, barras, etc.; Plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.</i>):</b>				
Mexico.....	112,361	224,836	1,554,902	2,104,004
<b>Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (<i>Azúcar, no superior de la escala holandesa; Assucar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão holandês; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	15,403	9,139	75,526	70,842
Mexico.....	10,682	357	24,848	40,336
Cuba.....	3,007,137	3,200,948	10,125,748	12,360,773
Brazil.....	106,755	14,908	670,127	1,115,743
Other South America.....	276,336	348,083	4,947,098	4,995,177
Hawaiian Islands.....	1,299,045	2,478,889	12,037,860	16,157,747
Philippine Islands.....	.....	.....	969,323	925,335
<b>Tobacco, leaf (<i>Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles</i>):</b>				
Mexico.....	770	8,403	212,916	78,148
Cuba.....	895,564	72,708	4,024,471	6,839,661
<b>Wood, mahogany (<i>Caoba; Mogno; Acajou</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	.....	26,470	314,117	270,506
Mexico.....	24,326	59,474	298,842	334,885
Cuba.....	.....	14,409	7,603	127,807
South America.....	348	1,218	14,759	24,090
<b>Wool (<i>Lana; Lã; Laine</i>):</b>				
South America—				
Class 1 (clothing).....	141,929	760,670	218,275	1,883,833
Class 2 (combing).....	.....	.....	106	48,600
Class 3 (carpet).....	34,949	159,431	312,565	613,614

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

<b>Agricultural implements (<i>Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machinos agricolas</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	\$128	\$234	\$5,902	\$6,195
Mexico.....	31,863	57,440	173,510	335,025
Santo Domingo.....	258	67	591	2,993
Cuba.....	7,204	19,800	21,051	149,418
Porto Rico.....	687	705	1,999	5,253
Argentine Republic.....	79,606	25,811	1,878,034	1,683,219
Brazil.....	4,221	9,017	32,620	26,719
Colombia.....	64	588	1,436	1,334
Other South America.....	18,178	3,935	253,538	266,937
<b>Animals:</b>				
<b>Cattle (<i>Ganado vacuno; Gado; Bétail</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	.....	.....	3,320	450
Mexico.....	4,565	12,865	85,810	125,155
South America.....	2,250	.....	5,193	490
<b>Hogs (<i>Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons</i>)—</b>				
Mexico.....	13,162	1,900	58,625	63,839



## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	April—		Ten months ending April—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Animals—Continued.</b>				
Horses ( <i>Caballos; Cavallos; Chevaux</i> )—				
Central America .....	\$100	—	\$5,690	\$300
Mexico .....	7,845	\$11,760	69,879	106,348
South America .....	—	—	3,839	1,830
Sheep ( <i>Carneros; Carneiros; Moutons</i> )—				
Mexico .....	824	100	11,492	14,455
South America .....	950	116	7,770	6,483
<b>Books, maps, engravings, etc. (<i>Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mappas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.</i>)—</b>				
Central America .....	3,553	3,218	30,215	47,605
Mexico .....	6,829	7,369	48,545	96,052
Santo Domingo .....	546	209	9,572	1,708
Cuba .....	7,217	8,346	31,303	56,877
Porto Rico .....	2,128	1,022	12,657	10,900
Argentine Republic .....	874	2,035	15,693	25,290
Brazil .....	2,087	1,914	41,235	48,058
Colombia .....	5,691	18,060	46,657	61,801
Other South America .....	1,836	10,133	112,883	48,190
<b>Breadstuffs:</b>				
Corn ( <i>Maíz; Milho; Maïs</i> )—				
Central America .....	4,065	2,128	29,493	36,607
Mexico .....	9,992	23,091	34,596	197,357
Santo Domingo .....	119	131	168	203
Cuba .....	15,201	46,579	156,737	481,044
Porto Rico .....	—	1,239	—	4,129
South America .....	2,244	267	19,784	65,571
Wheat ( <i>Trigo; Trigo; Blé</i> )—				
Central America .....	2,362	1,700	28,447	8,615
Mexico .....	107	—	5,143	2,038
South America .....	49,250	56,692	190,393	115,063
Wheat flour ( <i>Harina de trigo; Farinha de Trigo; Farine de blé</i> )—				
Central America .....	88,807	61,806	852,399	684,704
Mexico .....	18,560	9,939	111,714	122,561
Santo Domingo .....	9,251	16,296	127,562	108,420
Cuba .....	113,044	143,504	1,884,072	1,746,162
Porto Rico .....	46,261	61,782	415,790	588,721
Brazil .....	301,739	330,740	2,838,983	1,964,778
Colombia .....	64,114	18,675	340,879	228,851
Other South America .....	137,375	58,543	1,159,987	1,212,626
<b>Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of (<i>Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carruagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	2,679	577	35,454	20,353
Mexico .....	46,907	45,535	380,361	842,835
Santo Domingo .....	762	847	21,687	18,106
Cuba .....	8,161	7,415	97,948	169,061
Porto Rico .....	1,953	8,752	4,417	30,522
Argentine Republic .....	56,558	11,471	497,007	306,334
Brazil .....	4,825	4,460	103,245	160,977
Colombia .....	1,507	1,549	22,657	18,109
Other South America .....	2,583	2,489	46,827	45,079
<b>Cycles, and parts of (<i>Bicicletas y sus accesorios; Bicyclos e accesorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	49	228	4,733	2,563
Mexico .....	6,788	1,920	42,804	21,128
Santo Domingo .....	27	35	253	272
Cuba .....	4,965	4,812	13,066	142,616
Porto Rico .....	394	407	2,345	2,376
Argentine Republic .....	32,170	3,513	181,901	139,453
Brazil .....	1,907	1,765	48,599	24,906
Colombia .....	931	263	6,650	6,213
Other South America .....	4,275	2,887	42,354	57,664
<b>Clocks and watches (<i>Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relógios de parede e de bolso; Pendules et montres</i>):</b>				
Central America .....	274	1,022	2,295	3,630
Mexico .....	3,217	1,815	23,861	22,918
Argentine Republic .....	3,293	2,496	21,432	19,889
Brazil .....	3,373	2,874	58,097	53,810
Other South America .....	7,324	9,365	77,796	65,375

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	April—		Ten months ending April—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Coal</b> ( <i>Carbón; Carvão; Charbon</i> ):				
Central America .....	\$914	\$2,691	\$10,538	\$20,057
Mexico .....	115,636	205,241	1,003,489	1,398,462
Santo Domingo .....	1,434	1,248	11,019	12,217
Cuba .....	78,472	99,802	565,188	597,752
Porto Rico .....	7,611	1,013	42,998	40,154
Brazil .....		16,049	130,745	88,836
Colombia .....	1,464	4,238	32,005	38,973
Other South America .....	1,756	14,585	156,945	96,989
<b>Copper</b> ( <i>Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre</i> ):				
Mexico .....	4,450	139,128	247,572	565,971
<b>Cotton, unmanufactured</b> ( <i>Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton, non manufacturé</i> ):				
Mexico .....	92,229	103,677	1,033,590	671,473
South America .....		1,275		8,155
<b>Cotton cloths</b> ( <i>Tejidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé</i> ):				
Central America .....	47,793	56,732	434,510	612,799
Mexico .....	46,500	38,710	394,296	414,429
Santo Domingo .....	23,386	23,228	136,599	76,122
Cuba .....	68,186	23,377	269,793	403,564
Porto Rico .....	23,956	4,672	66,344	109,589
Argentine Republic .....	12,607	2,419	164,911	94,523
Brazil .....	43,850	25,477	458,083	346,496
Colombia .....	27,651	25,278	301,939	223,498
Other South America .....	98,170	69,952	1,187,469	841,654
<b>Wearing apparel</b> ( <i>Ropa de algodón; Roupas de algodão; Vêtements en coton</i> ):				
Central America .....	18,244	65,944	174,837	364,312
Mexico .....	41,450	84,249	326,609	402,962
Santo Domingo .....	1,167	5,814	24,910	18,974
Cuba .....	21,186	12,898	81,369	146,060
Porto Rico .....	5,972	1,392	16,681	24,080
Argentine Republic .....	6,207	1,043	60,071	16,156
Brazil .....	2,563	2,228	35,609	35,833
Colombia .....	3,468	5,446	37,196	41,507
Other South America .....	8,480	2,662	44,844	57,114
<b>Fruits and nuts</b> ( <i>Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noix</i> ):				
Central America .....	1,884	2,679	22,912	31,177
Mexico .....	6,867	5,840	67,048	69,699
Santo Domingo .....	102	361	1,729	2,697
Cuba .....	2,768	2,697	55,018	75,648
Porto Rico .....	278	488	3,744	11,652
Argentine Republic .....	2,768	1,046	14,097	5,452
Brazil .....	1,161	1,128	15,558	18,881
Colombia .....	768	930	6,573	8,483
Other South America .....	2,064	1,047	19,310	17,852
<b>Instruments:</b>				
Electric and scientific apparatus ( <i>Aparatos eléctricos y científicos; Aparelhos electricos e scientificos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques</i> )—				
Central America .....	2,594	14,457	73,084	55,523
Mexico .....	22,516	41,919	341,065	366,957
Argentine Republic .....	29,757	14,739	182,772	221,620
Brazil .....	11,700	21,996	101,393	161,987
Other South America .....	19,347	16,129	100,089	157,063
<b>Iron and steel, manufactures of:</b>				
Steel rails ( <i>Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier</i> )—				
Central America .....	87	720	33,627	13,877
Mexico .....	28,372	47,228	456,134	502,926
South America .....	12,955	24,458	217,012	201,882
<b>Builders' hardware, and saws and tools</b> ( <i>Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferragens, serras e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies et outils</i> )—				
Central America .....	6,716	11,098	67,266	86,083
Mexico .....	43,024	42,892	277,368	410,255

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	April—		Ten months ending April—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Iron and steel, manufactures of—Continued.</b>				
Builders' hardware, etc.—Continued.				
Santo Domingo .....	\$882	\$2,077	\$9,784	\$10,211
Cuba .....	32,039	28,010	191,705	295,200
Porto Rico .....	4,717	3,054	10,068	24,335
Argentine Republic .....	15,071	17,163	185,806	234,118
Brazil .....	25,550	25,163	182,148	228,886
Colombia .....	8,503	4,885	91,209	79,670
Other South America .....	32,416	11,167	194,831	225,721
Sewing machines and parts of ( <i>Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Máquinas de coser e accesorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties</i> )—				
Central America .....	1,313	1,645	16,883	24,768
Mexico .....	50,935	22,593	212,311	235,969
Santo Domingo .....	316	366	2,210	2,513
Cuba .....	1,056	3,891	5,627	61,772
Porto Rico .....	318	187	1,747	1,988
Argentine Republic .....	6,636	10,420	118,729	133,358
Brazil .....	25,720	18,137	89,811	118,055
Colombia .....	5,611	1,543	54,592	12,306
Other South America .....	9,997	6,896	106,385	133,063
Typewriting machines and parts of ( <i>Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Máquinas de escribir e accesorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties</i> )—				
Central America .....	185	571	2,118	2,773
Mexico .....	4,527	4,410	35,987	46,534
Santo Domingo .....	—	180	188	374
Cuba .....	2,321	5,875	15,197	29,008
Porto Rico .....	591	583	3,623	2,551
Argentine Republic .....	6,723	360	27,854	31,632
Brazil .....	916	2,137	5,425	10,284
Colombia .....	125	212	3,322	2,407
Other South America .....	3,542	568	18,954	20,255
Leather, other than sole ( <i>Cuero, distinto del de suelo; Couro não para solas; Cuirs, autres que pour semelles</i> ):				
Central America .....	601	1,358	8,267	21,857
Mexico .....	468	5,427	8,333	36,757
Santo Domingo .....	39	720	1,425	1,897
Cuba .....	2,302	2,255	7,743	31,245
Porto Rico .....	866	—	5,978	2,624
Argentine Republic .....	—	5,484	27,170	54,932
Brazil .....	5,208	11,636	36,712	84,249
Colombia .....	749	137	2,139	1,926
Other South America .....	1,961	3,825	29,319	35,887
Boots and shoes ( <i>Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures</i> ):				
Central America .....	12,714	26,324	82,335	133,559
Mexico .....	25,837	25,267	153,222	294,534
Colombia .....	2,688	5,500	25,748	42,682
Other South America .....	1,523	3,529	33,654	34,218
<b>Naval stores:</b>				
Rosin, tar, etc. ( <i>Resina y alquitrán; Resina e alcatrão; Résine et goudron</i> )—				
Central America .....	784	927	11,785	10,730
Mexico .....	877	276	7,189	5,759
Santo Domingo .....	640	15	3,641	1,907
Cuba .....	1,076	1,648	7,438	13,503
Porto Rico .....	46	178	993	1,572
Argentine Republic .....	2,752	—	73,037	122,124
Brazil .....	51,319	9,344	201,837	124,620
Colombia .....	2,373	1,078	11,876	8,892
Other South America .....	7,941	4,206	69,471	80,769
Turpentine, spirits of ( <i>Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine</i> )—				
Central America .....	268	486	2,803	5,696
Mexico .....	354	326	3,571	3,459
Santo Domingo .....	31	44	491	391
Cuba .....	5,148	2,039	26,516	38,309
Porto Rico .....	914	179	3,281	2,873
Argentine Republic .....	5,378	7,965	30,863	119,922
Brazil .....	3,238	3,167	44,620	56,681
Colombia .....	866	181	5,678	3,410
Other South America .....	3,809	3,084	29,132	52,399

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	April—		Ten months ending April—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Oils, mineral, crude ( <i>Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos minerales, crus; Huiles minérales, brutes</i> ):				
Mexico.....	\$33,276	\$40,797	\$297,073	\$317,486
Cuba.....	15,640	87,745	159,168	352,842
Porto Rico.....				19,519
Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured ( <i>Aceites minerales, refinados ó manufacturados; Oleos minerales, refinados ou manufacturados; Huiles minérales, raffinées ou manufacturées</i> ):				
Central America.....	17,969	9,696	115,503	125,566
Mexico.....	19,944	25,588	139,923	169,917
Santo Domingo.....	705	7,851	38,645	43,824
Cuba.....	8,662	2,725	116,323	62,261
Porto Rico.....	2,122	867	51,981	24,352
Argentine Republic.....	94,408	70,697	567,904	1,248,744
Brazil.....	108,209	130,778	1,327,871	1,584,550
Colombia.....	14,880	18,125	99,856	118,060
Other South America.....	114,257	64,559	640,291	1,069,993
Oils, vegetable ( <i>Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetales; Huiles végétales</i> ):				
Central America.....	551	416	3,444	5,608
Mexico.....	60,254	89,379	391,267	784,273
Santo Domingo.....	4,887	9,475	23,033	37,456
Porto Rico.....	407	400	1,491	1,672
Cuba.....	1,031	1,035	12,701	31,950
Argentine Republic.....	4,192	6,388	23,699	44,938
Brazil.....	9,030	42,588	166,978	197,645
Other South America.....	9,151	8,298	79,393	105,933
Paraffin and paraffin wax ( <i>Parafina y cera de parafina; Paraffina e cera de paraffina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance</i> ):				
Central America.....	4,062	1,012	25,170	27,799
Mexico.....	13,283	32,665	185,243	303,759
Brazil.....	1,210	1,084	10,594	15,123
Other South America.....	1,076	180	6,163	34,933
Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:				
Beef, canned ( <i>Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca en latas; Bœuf conservé</i> )—				
Central America.....	2,337	2,040	17,397	25,797
Mexico.....	2,522	1,801	15,936	17,892
Santo Domingo.....	16	11	66	90
Cuba.....	1,511	688	12,872	5,268
Argentine Republic.....			1,127	372
Brazil.....	1,577	1,324	15,594	30,927
Colombia.....	241	229	3,680	8,023
Other South America.....	1,344	1,095	9,867	18,363
Beef, salted or pickled ( <i>Carne de vaca salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumuré</i> )—				
Central America.....	4,019	3,532	28,175	34,135
Mexico.....	6	91	580	1,889
Santo Domingo.....	553	245	2,897	3,476
Cuba.....	959	7,795	25,295	14,708
Porto Rico.....	20		925	1,504
Brazil.....	267	265	2,397	4,353
Colombia.....	1,502	1,579	11,426	17,286
Other South America.....	15,860	4,363	143,804	150,208
Tallow ( <i>Sebo; Sebo; Suif</i> )—				
Central America.....	7,707	5,317	71,203	62,711
Mexico.....	5,568	1,281	29,019	19,570
Santo Domingo.....	3,371	1,918	15,756	12,749
Cuba.....			19,092	2,277
Porto Rico.....			347	467
Brazil.....	1,999	10,439	34,890	56,866
Colombia.....	1,992	1,325	10,208	9,171
Other South America.....	1,442	828	18,885	55,897
Bacon ( <i>Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé</i> )—				
Central America.....	1,281	1,686	14,722	22,119
Mexico.....	1,024	2,281	12,236	20,126
Santo Domingo.....	272	344	1,377	1,964
Cuba.....	44,396	54,861	467,923	672,330
Porto Rico.....	7,271	2,638	59,829	54,707

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	April—		Ten months ending April—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—</b>				
Continued.				
<b>Bacon—Continued.</b>				
Brazil.....	\$10,762	\$10,091	\$394,285	\$116,493
Colombia.....	234	481	1,497	2,572
Other South America.....	2,005	489	13,703	8,447
<b>Hams (<i>Jamones; Presunto; Jambons</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,993	3,142	18,974	26,378
Mexico.....	1,838	3,678	26,672	38,798
Santo Domingo.....	956	778	6,330	5,998
Cuba.....	35,554	52,388	427,034	575,750
Porto Rico.....	2,204	1,535	10,481	30,636
Brazil.....	151	523	3,197	3,819
Colombia.....	1,597	1,381	11,990	16,034
Other South America.....	8,410	5,517	70,614	63,429
<b>Pork (<i>Carne de puerco; Carne de porco; Pore</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	6,238	5,922	52,987	66,102
Santo Domingo.....	422	518	3,968	6,111
Cuba.....	1,588	29,077	23,087	355,763
Porto Rico.....	21,412	10,819	139,385	184,709
Brazil.....			5,840	2,564
Colombia.....	973	1,443	7,222	31,535
Other South America.....	24,495	4,522	200,605	148,914
<b>Lard (<i>Manteca; Banha; Saindoux</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	15,150	21,425	128,344	164,301
Mexico.....	17,582	28,927	141,165	386,914
Santo Domingo.....	3,313	3,881	20,723	20,655
Cuba.....	120,296	247,257	1,121,733	1,743,360
Porto Rico.....	22,312	19,702	200,572	211,265
Argentine Republic.....	401		3,006	4,606
Brazil.....	79,545	71,563	997,851	670,877
Colombia.....	12,452	12,056	73,392	120,443
Other South America.....	75,784	47,645	500,063	615,411
<b>Oleo and oleomargarine (<i>Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo é oleomargarina; Oléo et oléomargarine</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	200	865	2,102	7,675
Mexico.....	98		671	982
Porto Rico.....	2,741	1,304	17,364	16,461
Colombia.....	1,800	880	8,695	8,190
Other South America.....	2,007	158	16,640	14,626
<b>Butter (<i>Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	3,859	3,494	38,397	44,236
Mexico.....	5,736	4,015	43,177	37,910
Santo Domingo.....	2,148	2,959	9,403	13,525
Cuba.....	7,975	3,030	90,057	42,627
Porto Rico.....	239	483	6,881	2,291
Brazil.....	8,781	4,446	136,192	149,103
Colombia.....	1,838	1,412	12,300	12,481
Other South America.....	16,249	9,160	105,523	111,224
<b>Cheese (<i>Queso; Queijo; Fromage</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,730	2,236	14,790	20,933
Mexico.....	2,245	1,471	15,871	21,515
Santo Domingo.....	757	994	4,082	6,754
Cuba.....	6,567	4,288	69,015	36,962
Porto Rico.....	4,065	1,111	20,998	23,661
Brazil.....	35		638	90
Colombia.....	813	369	6,415	7,069
Other South America.....	1,323	726	11,846	9,961
<b>Seeds (<i>Scmillas; Sementes; Scmenec</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	582	513	3,308	3,374
Mexico.....	319	1,776	15,092	18,852
Santo Domingo.....	55	73	189	711
Cuba.....	137	45	3,322	3,902
Porto Rico.....	266	12	397	337
Argentine Republic.....	4,923	11	7,355	1,851
Brazil.....	200		999	262
Colombia.....	259	235	1,349	1,037
Other South America.....	229	308	1,713	3,051
<b>Sugar, refined (<i>Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	2,666	2,914	16,232	28,871
Mexico.....	4,169	195	16,693	17,492
Santo Domingo.....	74	140	1,075	695
Colombia.....	1,444	512	12,500	9,557
Other South America.....	252	74	1,911	1,738

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	April—		Ten months ending April—	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
<b>Tobacco, unmanufactured</b> ( <i>Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacturé</i> ):				
Central America .....	\$1,999	\$3,905	\$19,684	\$25,341
Mexico .....	19,033	10,568	126,703	151,253
Argentine Republic.....	3,415	4,180	20,080	18,408
Colombia .....	629	3,853	4,979	12,101
Other South America .....	7,848	5,323	79,961	85,897
<b>Tobacco, manufactures of</b> ( <i>Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué</i> ):				
Central America .....	3,463	5,540	46,017	47,382
Mexico .....	637	838	9,082	5,628
Cuba .....	21,716	20,528	132,155	156,184
Argentine Republic.....	5	1,143	4,176	23,982
Brazil .....		45	500	397
Colombia .....	552	798	4,352	5,413
Other South America .....	9,420	4,596	71,190	44,004
<b>Wood, unmanufactured</b> ( <i>Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut</i> ):				
Central America .....	4,145	2,580	26,697	16,527
Mexico .....	4,043	31,840	229,519	204,480
Cuba .....	835	2,182	33,356	45,970
Argentine Republic.....	778	3,042	13,522	15,833
Brazil .....	240		4,524	
Colombia .....			20,599	7,201
Other South America .....	274	50	26,192	73,642
<b>Lumber</b> ( <i>Maderas; Modeiras; Bois de construction</i> ):				
Central America .....	6,710	1,683	50,154	40,595
Mexico .....	98,682	140,541	648,467	939,665
Santo Domingo .....	4,506	337	26,424	27,495
Cuba .....	47,759	155,077	607,563	909,427
Porto Rico.....	6,769	15,453	44,907	153,393
Argentine Republic.....	136,584	85,763	838,463	1,026,871
Brazil .....	56,476	17,604	384,230	336,226
Colombia .....	4,684	6,026	35,338	57,529
Other South America .....	55,213	33,741	398,627	448,643
<b>Furniture</b> ( <i>Muebles; Mobília; Meubles</i> ):				
Central America .....	1,964	3,677	30,118	39,273
Mexico .....	28,587	40,491	196,466	332,604
Santo Domingo .....	1,114	1,098	6,692	8,597
Cuba .....	17,923	147,650	58,703	377,767
Porto Rico.....	3,818	1,080	15,921	26,672
Argentine Republic.....	5,431	2,115	57,689	86,767
Brazil .....	3,009	3,572	26,145	33,881
Colombia .....	3,320	649	23,593	15,730
Other South America .....	7,973	3,276	55,187	52,269

## POSTAL-CONVENTION PACKAGES FROM MEXICO.

In Circular No. 64, issued by the Treasury Department of the United States on May 4, 1900, instructions are given in relation to the treatment of articles imported under parcels-post and postal conventions. Some of these instructions have direct reference to "postal-convention packages from Mexico," as follows:

"In addition to the parcels-post convention with Mexico, there is a postal convention, under the terms of which articles of every kind or nature admitted to the domestic mails of either country, except sealed packages (not in the form of a letter) and those prohibited by the customs laws and regulations, may be imported into the United States.

"Parcels imported under the terms of this convention must be so

wrapped or inclosed that they may be readily and thoroughly examined by postmasters or customs officers; otherwise they should be treated as if sealed. The weight must not exceed 4 pounds.

“The provisions herein for entry, appraisement, rating of duty, internal-revenue stamps, prohibited articles, and delivery of unsealed parcels-post packages (including registered) are to be applied to postal-convention packages; likewise the provisions relative to sealed packages (including registered).

“As declarations are not required to accompany postal-convention packages, such packages are not subject to the provisions of section 32 of the act of July 24, 1897 (the tariff act).

“Postal-convention packages when undelivered are to be returned to the country of origin at the expiration of thirty days from their receipt at the office of destination.

“The exchange post-offices of receipt for packages imported under the terms of this convention are the same as those for parcels-post packages from Mexico.”

The post-offices referred to in the preceding paragraph are as follows: Carrizo, Eagle Pass, El Paso, Hidalgo, Laredo, Presidio, Rio Grande City, and Romana, Texas; Deming, New Mexico; Nogales, Arizona; St. Louis, Missouri; San Diego, Tia Juana, and San Francisco, California; and New York City.

#### FOREIGN MERCHANDISE IN TRANSIT.

The Treasury Department of the United States, in Circular No. 76, issued instructions with reference to the entry and transportation of merchandise passing in transit through the United States between foreign countries. An act of Congress, approved May 21, 1900, which has more particular reference to the “Free Zone” of Mexico, is incorporated in this circular “for the information and guidance of all persons concerned.” This law is as follows:

*“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 3005 of the Revised Statutes of the United States be amended to read as follows:*

“SEC. 3005. All merchandise arriving at any port of the United States destined for any foreign country may be entered at the custom-house and conveyed in transit through the territory of the United States without the payment of duties, under such regulations as to examination and transportation as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.”

“SEC. 2. That the joint resolution entitled ‘Joint resolution in reference to the Free Zone along the northern frontier of Mexico and adjacent to the United States,’ approved March 1, 1895, be, and the same is hereby, repealed, and the full operation of section 3005 of the

Revised Statutes as existing prior to the adoption of such joint resolution is hereby revived."

The circular, after explicit instructions regarding the entry and transportation of merchandise in general, continues as follows: "The privileges accorded prior to the approval, on March 1, 1895, of the joint resolution suspending the operation of section 3005, Revised Statutes, in so far as the same relates to goods, wares, and merchandise destined for the so-called Free Zone of Mexico, having been restored by the act approved May 21, 1900, merchandise destined for any places in the Republic of Mexico may be forwarded under the conditions and regulations above described."

#### **TONNAGE DUES AND NAVIGATION LAWS OF HAWAII.**

On May 3, 1900, the Bureau of Navigation of the United States issued a circular to the effect that on and after June 14, 1900, vessels entering the United States from the "Territory of Hawaii" and entering said territory from the United States will be exempt from tonnage taxes. Vessels entering Hawaii elsewhere than from the United States after June 14, 1900, will be subject to tonnage taxes as provided by the laws of the United States.

Another circular of the same date prohibits allotments (advance payments) of wages to seamen on voyages between Pacific ports of the United States and Hawaii. Allotments of not exceeding one month's wages on voyages to Atlantic ports of the United States from Hawaii, or vice versa, will be allowed.

A third circular of the date named relates to vessels, their ownership, navigation, documenting, quarantine regulations, etc. This is in effect the extension of the navigation laws of the United States to the Territory of Hawaii.

According to the "Act of April 30, 1900," by which the Territory of Hawaii was created by the Congress of the United States, all the islands comprise one customs district, with ports of entry and delivery at Honolulu, Hilo, Mahukona, and Kahului.

#### **SURVEYS IN ALASKA.**

The gold-bearing areas of Cape Nome and the copper fields in the vicinity of Copper River and Mount Wrangell, the most important field for exploration in Alaska at the present time, will be carefully surveyed by parties from the United States Geological Survey during the present summer.

The extent of the gold belt that passes through Cape Nome is in a great measure unknown, but it is believed to cover an area of from 3,000 to 4,000 square miles, all of which needs to be mapped and prospected. Mr. ALFRED H. BROOKS, geologist, who, in company with



Mr. F. C. SCHRADER, visited Cape Nome in 1899, and Mr. E. C. BARNARD, topographer, will direct the geologic and topographic parties at work in this territory, and hope to return to Washington with a map of the gold area on a scale of four miles to the inch. Another party under the leadership of Messrs. W. J. PETERS and T. C. MENDENHALL, is to have the extension of the gold belt to the north-eastward and determine, if possible, how far it penetrates into the interior of Alaska.

#### TRIANGULATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

For the first time in its history, so the "National Geographic Magazine" reports, the actual sea levels, mileage, latitudes, and longitudes of the Mississippi River are being determined. The work is in the hands of the "Mississippi River Commission," the board of army and civilian engineers charged with the duty of improving this vast water-course. As years of experiment and more or less defined effort at improvement have not resulted in permanent good all along, the Commission has wisely decided to survey the entire system and triangulate every foot of its course.

#### ORANGE FRUIT SCALE.

An instance of the valuable work performed by the National and State Departments of Agriculture and their cooperation in instructing and organizing the farmers, fruit growers, and others is shown by a recent item which appeared in the "California Fruit World" inquiring for quantities of orange fruit scale. This pernicious scale some years ago threatened to destroy the fruit industry of the State of California, and a search was made by the Department of Agriculture of the United States, and also by the State Board of Agriculture, for a natural parasite which would destroy the scale by devouring it. This parasite was found in *Vedalia cardinalis* ("ladybug"), which was imported into the State and placed in groves where the scale was working destruction.

The item in the "Fruit World" was an inquiry from the Secretary of the State Board of Horticulture, in which he stated that he had heard that in portions of the State trees were still troubled with the "cottony cushion scale," and he desired to know the exact localities. His reason for asking was unique. He stated that the Board of Horticulture had been searching the State over for supplies of the scale for the purpose of keeping the stock of *Vedalia cardinalis* alive. He added: "We are short of food and would be pleased to have quantities of branches infested with the scale shipped to San Francisco; charges to be paid there. If the fruit growers will supply us with the scale to feed the ladybugs with, colonies of the latter will be distributed wherever desired."

**PORTO RICAN REVENUES IN APRIL, 1900.**

The Division of Customs and Insular Affairs of the War Department of the United States recently issued a statement showing the total receipts of the Porto Rican Treasurer for the month of April, 1900, to have been \$105,869.18. The sources from which the money was received were as follows: From customs, \$70,279.72; from the post-offices, \$6,287.02; from internal revenue, \$27,588.84; from miscellaneous sources, \$1,713.40. The total expenditures for the month were \$186,510.77, showing a deficit for the month of \$80,641.59.

The civil governor having been inaugurated and military rule having ceased, on April 30 the balance remaining in the hands of the late military government, amounting to \$285,339.25, was transferred to the treasurer of the civil government pursuant to the instructions of the War Department.

**METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS.**

The havoc that can be wrought by the hurricanes which periodically devastate the Greater and Lesser Antilles, more especially the latter, will soon be reduced to a minimum, owing to the effective work of the United States Weather Bureau. Gradually meteorological stations are being established at all points on the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and in the West Indies, from which advance warnings can be cabled. The most recent of these stations is at Turks Island, at the extreme southeastern end of the Bahamas.

**REMARKABLE VEIN OF FULLER'S EARTH.**

According to the "Chicago Chronicle," there was recently discovered near the Ocklockonnee River, 14 miles west of the city of Tallahassee, Florida, what is believed by experts to be the most wonderfully pure vein of fuller's earth ever discovered in the world. This vein is said to yield, at the expenditure of very little labor, immense quantities of this peculiar earth which stands the 100 test—that is to say, that it is absolutely pure; there is no waste. Nearly all the mines of this kind of earth contain, besides the valuable commodity, rock, flint, gravel, sand, etc., but this deposit is entirely free of such substances.

**IRRIGATION OF DESERT LAND IN OREGON.**

The "Oregon Irrigation Company," of Portland, Oregon, proposes to reclaim some 387,000 acres of arid land in Crook County, that State. In the county named, at no great distance from the Deschutes River, there are stretches of land with scarcely any vegetation, which are known throughout the State as deserts. Wherever it has been possible to irrigate any of this land, it has been found wonderfully fertile.

These facts have been known for years, but the magnitude of the work of conducting water across the sun-baked deserts in sufficient quantities to produce crops has heretofore discouraged the agriculturists. The present company was incorporated by the State in November, 1899, and has started in to work with the avowed purpose of constructing five large canals, 30 to 33 feet wide and 7 to 10 feet deep, for conveying the water.

#### **EXPORTATION OF COTTON IN APRIL, 1900.**

The exportation of cotton from the United States during the month of April, 1900, amounted to 264,044,318 pounds, against 134,397,328 pounds in April, 1899. The value of the cotton exported in April, 1900, was \$24,684,078, against \$8,435,097 in April last year. The average price per pound in April of the present year was 9.3 cents, an increase of nearly 50 per cent over the average per pound in April, 1899, when the price per pound was but 6.3 cents.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain increased its importation of United States cotton from 52,000,000 pounds in April, 1899, to 89,000,000 pounds in April, 1900; France, from 9,000,000 to 13,000,000 pounds; Germany, from 15,500,000 to 88,000,000 pounds, and other European countries, from 40,000,000 to 64,000,000 pounds.

#### **INCREASE OF PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION STOCK.**

The capital stock of the Pan-American Exposition Company is to be supplemented, according to information received on June 1, 1900, by the issuance of bonds to the amount of \$2,500,000. The officials of the Exposition do not think that it will be necessary to offer the bonds at popular sale, as it is believed the banking institutions of the city of Buffalo will take the whole amount, one bank having already subscribed, it is reported, for \$250,000 worth. This issue of bonds will increase the capital stock of the Exposition to \$5,000,000.

#### **CONSULATE AT HONOLULU ABOLISHED.**

On June 14, 1900, the United States consulate at Honolulu was abolished after sixty years of continuous existence. The records of the office, many of which are of great historical value, will be removed to the State Department at Washington.

#### **DISCOVERY OF A RARE MINERAL.**

At a recent meeting of the section of mineralogy and geology of the New York Academy of Sciences, Dr. E. O. HOVEY called attention to the recent discovery in the tin mines of the Black Hills, of the State of South Dakota, of large crystals of the mineral known as "spodumene." One crystal obtained in those mines is 30 feet in length. Spodumene

is a mineral consisting chiefly of silica, alumina, and the rare earth lithium, the latter being an important article of commerce.

#### **MINERAL PRODUCTS OF CALIFORNIA.**

The Mineralogist of California reports the value of the mineral substances produced in that State in 1899 to have been \$29,313,460, an increase of \$2,024,381 over the previous year's output. The principal items enumerated in this officer's report were the following: Gold, \$15,336,031; copper, 23,915,486 pounds, \$3,990,534; petroleum, 2,667,875 barrels, \$2,660,793; quicksilver, 29,454 flasks, \$1,405,045; borax, 20,357 tons, \$1,139,882.

#### **THE SILK INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA.**

The Chamber of Commerce of the city of San Diego, State of California, recently investigated the prospects of the silk industry in that part of the United States. The examination resulted in demonstrating that, while in France the season for the production of raw silk lasts but forty-two days, in San Diego four sets of cocoons can be raised each year, as the season lasts two hundred and forty days. As a result of this showing, the Chamber of Commerce is now devoting its energies to the establishment of the new industry. Arrangements have been made for a large number of silkworms, and 5,000 mulberry trees will be distributed in the agricultural districts surrounding the city.

#### **CALIFORNIA FLOUR IN ECUADOR AND PERU.**

A telegram published in Buenos Ayres, dated at Valparaiso, Chile, May 1, states that both Ecuador and Peru are importing wheat and wheat flour from California.

#### **RECOGNITION OF CONSULAR OFFICERS.**

The President of the United States has recognized the following consular officers recently:

Mr. JULIAN DE LA ROCHA, Vice-Consul of the Dominican Republic at Ponce, Porto Rico.

Mr. MANUEL M. SAMA, Honorary Consul of Guatemala in Porto Rico.

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### **URUGUAY.**

#### **RECEPTION OF MINISTER CUESTAS.**

Señor Don JUAN CUESTAS, Minister Resident from the oriental Republic of Uruguay near the Government of the United States at Washington, presented his credentials and was received by President McKINLEY on June 13, 1900.

What makes this an event of more importance than is the case when one Minister is replaced by another, is the fact that Señor CUESTAS is the first Minister ever sent to the United States from Uruguay. The mission of the new diplomat to the United States is a step forward in the expansion of the trade of both North and South America, and it is believed that the relations existing between the two Republics directly interested will be further extended to their mutual profit.

On being presented, Señor CUESTAS said:

“Mr. President: Invested by the Government of the oriental Republic of Uruguay with the character of Minister Resident near the Government of the United States of America, over which Your Excellency presides, I have the honor to place in Your Excellency's hand the autograph letter of His Excellency the President which accredits me in that capacity.

“Interpreting the sentiments which animate my Government in confiding to me this mission, whose first object is to contribute to draw more closely, if possible, the relations of frank and cordial friendship which happily unite the two countries, it is my duty to make known to Your Excellency the sincere wishes for the prosperity and greatness of the United States of America, and for the personal happiness of of Your Excellency entertained by my Government.

“For my part I congratulate myself, Mr. President, that Your Excellency will appreciate the sincerity of my sentiments and will give them a kindly welcome. My mission will thus be rendered all the easier and I shall count myself happy if my modest good will as representative of Uruguay should meet the assistance and efficacious cooperation of the First Magistrate of a great people.”

In reply President MCKINLEY expressed himself as follows:

“Mr. Minister: It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this country in the capacity of Minister Resident of the Republic of Uruguay, and to assure you that the sentiments of cordial friendship which you express are heartily reciprocated by the Government and by the people of the United States.

“It will give me great pleasure to cooperate with you in the laudable purpose which you express, of cementing and rendering even more intimate the relations which so happily unite our two Republics. It is a special pleasure for me to welcome you, not only as Minister of Uruguay, but as the son of the enlightened statesman who now directs the destinies of that Republic.”

#### ESTIMATED POPULATION OF THE REPUBLIC.

Although the official figures have not been published with reference to the interior of the Republic, which was taken on March 1, 1900, “El Razon” has published the following statistics, based on private

returns, the population of Montevideo, the census of which was taken in December, 1899, being now estimated at 266,000:

Department.	Population.	Department.	Population.
Artigas.....	23,199	Rio Negro.....	18,574
Canelones.....	76,809	Rivera.....	22,927
Cerro Largo.....	33,084	Rocha.....	26,727
Colonia.....	45,061	Salto.....	40,589
Durazno.....	32,757	San José.....	37,099
Flores.....	14,431	Soriano.....	34,253
Florida.....	39,788	Tacuarembó.....	32,680
Maldonado.....	23,764	Tridenta y Tres.....	22,760
Minas.....	32,470		
Paysandu.....	39,338	Total.....	596,310

With the population of Montevideo added "El Razon" gives the total population of the Republic as 862,310. The official figures will not appear for some months, but it is not expected that they will vary much from those now given.

At the time of the declaration of independence, in 1829, the population of Uruguay was estimated at 74,000, and at the first general census, which was taken in 1852, the total population was ascertained to be 131,969. The second general census was taken eight years later, or in 1860, when the number of inhabitants was found to be 229,480. No further general census has ever been taken until that of the present year. However, Señor A. VAILLANT, one of the principal statisticians of Montevideo, made a careful calculation in 1879, showing that at that time 438,245 people lived within the confines of the Republic. This has formed the basis for subsequent estimates by the Director-General of Statistics. That Señor VAILLANT's estimate was a close one is evidenced by the fact that in 1896 the total population was given as 818,843, which, by the addition of the natural increase and the limited number of immigrants, would bring the total up to about the figures for 1900 as given by "El Razon."

#### EXPORTATION OF WOOL AND SHEEPSKINS.

The "Montevideo Times" recently printed a table showing the amount, value, and average price of wool exported from Uruguay for each year from 1890 to 1899, inclusive. From this it is learned that the exports in 1890 were 21,930,000 kilograms, valued at \$7,865,811, while in 1897 the amount shipped abroad was 51,678,000 kilograms, valued at \$12,402,802. The average valuation per kilogram (2.2046 pounds) was about 36 cents in 1890 and 24 cents in 1897. In 1899 there were 39,315,000 kilograms of wool exported, valued at \$14,271,628, or an average for each kilogram of nearly 36½ cents. It will be recollected that the figures here given refer to Uruguayan currency values, a dollar of that country being worth \$1.034 in United States currency.

In 1890 the weight of the sheepskins exported was 4,941,000 kilo-

grams, valued at \$1,293,573. In 1896 the number of kilograms had increased to 8,115,000, valued, however, at only \$1,339,489. Though the number had fallen to 6,525,000 in 1899, the value had increased to \$1,956,558.

The principal customers for Uruguayan wool and sheepskins have been France and Belgium, although in recent years Germany has been taking steadily increasing quantities, ranging from 1,858,000 kilograms in 1890 to 10,839,000 kilograms in 1899. It will be seen from the average price paid per kilogram that a great proportion of the wool purchased by Germany was classified as low grade. Within the last few years Buenos Ayres has figured as a large purchaser of Uruguayan products—perhaps the largest, when the prices paid are taken into consideration—but the purchases accredited to the Argentine Republic were undoubtedly for reexportation and there is no means of telling their ultimate destination. The average price per kilogram received from the Argentine purchaser was larger than that paid by other countries, showing that they took most of the better grades of wool.

The exports of wool and sheepskins to other countries, with the invoiced values of the purchases of each, were as follows:

	Wool.		Sheepskins.	
	Kilos.	Valuation.	Kilos.	Valuation.
Germany.....	10,889,000	\$3,454,911	222,000	\$74,228
Argentina.....	10,139,000	4,048,653	540,000	154,028
France.....	8,979,000	3,026,212	5,573,000	1,671,922
Belgium.....	6,880,000	2,649,229		
England.....	1,723,000	737,195	40,000	10,541
Italy.....	678,000	325,387	139,000	42,555
Brazil.....	43,000	14,321	4,000	1,041
United States.....	27,000	12,777	6,000	2,119
Spain.....	4,000	2,131	500	124
Portugal.....	2,000	832		
Total.....	39,314,000	14,271,628	6,524,500	1,956,558

#### PROPOSED NEW TAXES.

According to a report dated March 29, 1900, received by the British Government from its Minister at Montevideo, a Presidential message has been sent to the Chambers, proposing the imposition of consumption taxes on certain articles in order to meet a deficit in the budget, which is roughly calculated at \$600,000.

This deficit is caused (1) by the assignment to the port fund of the 2½ per cent additional customs duty; (2) by the extraordinary expenditure of \$726,747 to meet certain outstanding engagements of the previous administration; (3) by the decrease in the customs revenue caused by laws passed to protect native industries, and (4) by the natural development of native manufactures.

The proposed new taxes are as follows: On refined sugar, 1½ cents per kilogram; hulled rice, 1 cent per kilogram. Native-made wines,

2 cents per liter; imported wines, the alcoholic strength of which exceeds 16° centesimal, for every degree or fraction of a degree in excess, 1 cent per liter; liquors, bitters, vermouth, brandy, gin, and other alcoholic drinks manufactured in the country up to 20° "Cartier," equal to 52.5° centesimal, 10 cents the liter, and those of greater alcoholic strength in proportion. Montevideo to be the only port at which foreign wines and alcoholic drinks can be introduced.

#### COMMERCIAL REPORT BY THE GERMAN LEGATION.

In a recent official report by the German Legation at Montevideo, a number of different articles in use or for which a demand might be created are referred to. Among these were the following:

Black and galvanized iron pipes are now being supplied by the United States of America, whose competition is becoming marked. American pipes, excepting the smallest sizes, have a metal cap for protecting the screw thread at one end of the pipes. This cap is considered to be superior to the English method of protecting the thread by means of rope.

Fixed steam engines are only in occasional demand. Gas engines are not popular, owing to the high price of gas. The "Baxter" steam engine, with upright boiler, is in great favor, owing to the convenience and economy of the firing. Small engines of from three-fourths to 4 horsepower, of simpler construction than the "Baxter" engines, are made locally. The United States has supplied a few locomotives for the railways, but all the rest are of British origin.

Most of the tin plate comes from Great Britain. One of the largest companies here, employed in preserving ox tongues, supplies yearly some 9,000 cases, each of from three to four dozen tins (each containing a whole or half tongue), and requires from 400 to 600 cases of double width tin plate per annum. A certain quantity of refined tallow, preserved fruits, and the like, are also exported in tins. Over and above these, there are several small industries making kitchen utensils and boxes, but by far the largest quantity of tin plate is used by the Liebig factory at Fray Bentos.

#### HEALTH ORDINANCE OF PORT OF MONTEVIDEO.

On March 24, 1900, the Board of Health of Montevideo issued the following ordinance (No. 49):

"ARTICLE 1. From the date of the publication of the present ordinance, captains of vessels staying in this port are bound to give notice to the sanitary authorities of any case of illness which may occur on board.

"ART. 2. Any contravention of the above rule will be punished with a fine of \$10" (\$10.34 United States currency).



**EXPORTS OF CRUDE BONES.**

Mr. ALBERT W. SWALM, United States Consul at Montevideo, reports that crude bones are exported from Uruguay in large quantities, the amount in 1899 being 40,587,601 pounds. Of this total, the proportion forwarded directly to the United States was 4,612,025 pounds.

**MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.**

New postage stamps were put in circulation in Uruguay on April 10, 1900. The denominations are as follows: One-half cent, type 1899, color, orange; 7 cents, type 1890, color, carmine, and 20 cents, type 1889, color, light blue.

The Congress of Uruguay has passed a law authorizing the President to have coined, through the intervention of the Bank of the Republic, \$500,000 in nickel coins.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs has been informed by the Italian Minister that his Government will take part in the Congress of Science and Art at Montevideo.

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**VENEZUELA.****EXTENSION OF SHIPPING AND TRADING CONCESSION.**

The Venezuelan Government has extended for a period of six years the concession granted to the Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company, Limited. The following is a translation of the Government's decree authorizing this extension:

"1. The navigation contract, approved by the Federal Legislative Power on the 24th of May, 1894, entered into between the Minister of Interior Relations and Mr. MANUEL A. SANCHEZ, and of which the Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company is now the concessionaire, is hereby prorogued for six years. This prorogation shall date from the time of the expiration of the term of years fixed by article 13 of the aforesaid contract.

"2. The company (concessionaire) is obligated within a period of twelve months from this date, to make at least twelve annual voyages between the Island of Trinidad and the Venezuelan ports included in its eastern itinerary and La Guaira.

"3. The company is exempted from its obligation to establish navigation between La Guaira and Maracaibo, and therefore renounces the subsidy of 4,000 *bolivars* conceded to it by article 7 of said con-

tract. Should the company desire to extend its navigation to the port of Maracaibo, the Government agrees to render every assistance possible."

#### RECEIPTS FROM IMPORTS AT LA GUAIRA.

The duties collected on importations through the La Guaira custom-house during the month of January last, amounted to 841,835.73 *bolivars*. The value of the importations from the United States was 554,712.16 *bolivars*; that from all other countries being 385,519.61 *bolivars*. The duties paid on the merchandise imported from the United States amounted to 583,302.74 *bolivars*; those paid on the importations from all other countries amounted to 258,532.99 *bolivars*.

#### CONCESSION FOR FOREST EXPLOITATION.

A concession has been granted to a Franco-Belgian company for the exploitation of the forests of the territory of Amazonas. One of the principal objects of the company is the gathering of crude rubber. The concession is granted for a period of fifty years. According to its terms the company has the right to utilize any source of natural wealth which may be encountered upon the lands.

#### EXHIBIT AT THE BUFFALO PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION.

The Venezuelan Government has taken steps for the collection of specimens and material for its exhibit at the Pan-American Exposition in 1901. A Central Board of Directors, with residence in Caracas, has been named. The chairman of this board is the Minister of Public Works. He is assisted by two vice-presidents, a treasurer, a recording and a corresponding secretary. The Central Board of Directors will appoint a board in the capital of each State. These, in turn, will appoint subordinate boards in the districts within their jurisdiction. The Central Board shall take charge of the specimens and objects which go to form the exhibit of the Republic.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Guayana Gold Mining and Exploration Company has sent a complete force of workmen to Venezuelan Guiana to operate its mines. The company is making vigorous efforts to successfully develop its mining interests in that part of the country.

The concession of "The Overland Transport Company, Limited," which expired on April 1, 1900, has been extended indefinitely. The capital of this company is 300,000 *bolivars*.

From the 1st of January to the 6th of April, 1900, there were shipped to England 24,090 ounces of gold. The export duty on this gold amounted to \$6,863.

## INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN CONFERENCE.

The members of the International Union of the American Republics met in the diplomatic reception room at the Department of State, in Washington, on June 13, 1900.

The following countries were represented: Argentine Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Salvador, United States, and Venezuela.

The object of the meeting was to consider the question of the time and place of holding the International American Conference. Señor ASPIROZ, the Mexican Ambassador, extended the official invitation of the Government of Mexico, asking that the conference be held at that capital.

This was accepted, and the sincere thanks of the members of the Union were tendered to the Mexican Government.

It was decided to leave the fixing of the time of the meeting of the conference to the Governments of Mexico and the United States.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the International Union, held on June 15, 1900, it was decided that the conference would be called to meet in the city of Mexico at some time between April and July, 1901, the invitations to be issued and the definite date to be fixed by the Mexican Government.

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 PRODUCTION OF JAVA COFFEE.

Statistics in regard to the trade in Java coffee for the years 1896-1899 are given by the "Indische Mercur," of Batavia, Java, as follows:

*Java coffee (in sacks of 60 kilograms).*

Year.	Government plantations.		Private plantations.	
	Total crop.	Export to Netherlands.	Total crop.	Export to Netherlands.
1890-91 .....	371,000	108,300	325,000	217,600
1891-92 .....	597,000	271,000	409,000	344,100
1892-93 .....	68,000	443,700	124,000	320,700
1893-94 .....	363,000	123,600	455,000	260,000
1894-95 .....	339,000	260,200	333,000	402,200
1895-96 .....	265,000	238,800	456,000	307,500
1896-97 .....	381,000	149,000	392,000	409,300
1897-98 .....	94,000	289,100	150,000	353,900
1898-99 .....	207,000	106,900	510,000	261,100

*Imports of coffee by the Netherlands.*

Year.	Total.	Java.	Menado.	Macassar.	Africa.	Santos.	Central America.
1890.....	922,200	580,700	13,100	13,500	42,000	232,600	3,900
1893.....	1,031,100	608,600	11,200	9,100	68,500	277,400	16,700
1894.....	937,500	622,100	1,600	10,900	52,500	185,100	19,100
1895.....	1,178,800	598,300	5,800	7,200	55,200	452,900	22,000
1896.....	1,195,300	582,700	1,700	10,800	49,600	502,900	3,200
1897.....	1,436,800	659,700	11,300	23,600	77,400	615,000	2,300
1898.....	1,522,700	464,600	3,400	15,500	80,600	875,700	11,700
1899.....	1,702,500	594,500	10,000	10,000	59,400	919,100	12,700

## WARP AND GLOVERS' WOOL.

The "German Credit Institute" of Saxony has formed a joint stock company for the production of skin wool, which heretofore has been produced almost exclusively in Southern France and Northern Italy. The United States consul at Glauchau reports that glovers' wool has been produced in Germany in limited quantities, and the textile industries were compelled to obtain what they required of this article from the two countries above named. The term "skin wool" applies to the raw products of animal wools hitherto known as *raufwolle* (scraped wool). *Gerberwolle* (glovers' wool) is the wool or hair remaining after shearing on the skin of sheep which, while alive, can, of course, not be sheared down to absolute nakedness and that taken from the hides of dead animals. The wool of slaughtered animals previously shorn is mostly of inferior quality and considerably shorter than that obtained from living sheep.

It can be used, therefore, only for manufacturing inferior textiles, such as low-class flannels, etc. This so-called glovers' wool is principally removed from the skin by chemical means, and by this also loses its value for the wool industries. Skin wool, on the other hand, is scraped off from the skins of dead sheep not shorn, and is, as a rule, longer, stouter, and more healthy and uniform than that obtained by shearing, because sheepskins are mostly obtained from animals slaughtered for food, which must necessarily be sound, large, and healthy, whereas shorn wool is obtained as well from sickly, decrepit animals, which are found in every flock. Skin wool is consequently likely to be more uniform in respect of fineness of quality, because in scraping the wool off the skin the coarser portions, which grow on certain parts of the body, can be sorted more carefully than is the case with shorn fleece. It is greatly preferred for certain purposes; for example, as abb wool (warp), owing to its tenacity and length. Where skin wool is desired it is customary to allow the fleece to have a growth from eight to twelve months. The success of this new company may cause the formation of others and a consequent increased demand and higher prices for sheepskins from the River Plate countries. The process to be employed by the newly founded company in Germany for obtaining such wool and the commercial use intended have not yet been made public.

## WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF STEEL.

The "Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels" gives the following figures of the world's production of steel:

	1898.	1899.
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Great Britain .....	4,565,300	4,855,325
United States .....	8,829,500	10,533,670
Germany .....	5,734,307	6,290,434
France .....	1,441,633	1,529,182
Belgium .....	653,130	729,920
Austria-Hungary .....	860,000	950,000
Russia .....	1,153,000	1,250,000
Sweden .....	265,121	257,000
Italy .....	60,000	80,000
Spain .....	90,000	120,000
Total .....	23,651,991	26,595,531

In 1880 the total world's production was 4,192,008 tons. At the present time 70 per cent of the pig iron made is converted into steel.

### PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND SILVER.

The "Engineering and Mining Journal" in a recent issue published corrected returns showing the gold and silver production of the world in the year 1899. According to the statistics compiled by this journal, the largest gold-producing country was Australia, which contributed to the world's supply refined gold to the value of \$79,206,180, United States currency. The South African Republic was the second largest producer, the gold mined there being valued at \$72,961,501. The United States was third in the list, the value of the gold mined here being \$70,096,021. Russia ranked fourth with \$23,963,017, while Canada, the fifth in order, had a product valued at \$21,049,730.

In the United States the greatest gold-producing State was Colorado, which supplied more than one-third of the total product of the country, and more than the whole of Russia in fact, or to the value of \$26,508,765. The State of California ranked next with a product valued at \$14,800,000, the output of each of the several other States producing quantities of this precious metal was comparatively unimportant when contrasted with the output of either of the two States named.

The total gold production of the world was \$312,307,819, compared with \$286,803,462 in 1898, and \$237,833,984 in 1897. Australia, South Africa, the United States, Russia, and Canada furnished 86.5 per cent of the world's supply of gold in 1899. The total production of this precious metal, it is thought, will be smaller in 1900 than it was in 1899, owing to the reduced output in South Africa. Thereafter,

however, gold production everywhere is likely to increase somewhat steadily. The production in Alaska, especially in the Cape Nome regions, will undoubtedly be much larger in 1900 than it was in 1899.

The revised figures with reference to the silver production for the entire world in the year 1899 give a grand total of \$104,100,163, United States currency valuation, or was worth just about one-third as much as the gold produced that year. The largest output was by the United States, \$34,036,168, with Mexico closely following with a production amounting to \$32,788,565. The State of Colorado was, as it was in gold, the first State in the Union in production, its output being valued at \$13,771,731, while the State of Montana produced \$10,039,680. The indications are that the value of the silver mined in 1900 will vary little from that of 1899. The value of this product in 1898 was \$105,364,505.

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## TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA.

The manager of the Southern Argentine Railway (Ferrocarril del Sur) at Buenos Ayres has, asserts "La Union," authorized the expenditure of over £3,000,000 sterling for the execution of works to improve the company's train service. Among the foremost improvements to be taken in hand will be the extension of the Constitución railway station and the putting of the permanent way on a high level for a distance of 5 or 6 miles, to relieve the streets of the city from the present inconveniences of the traffic.

Mr. JOHN N. RUFFIN, United States Consul, writes from Asunción, April 6, 1900, that bids will soon be requested for printing 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 postage stamps of different colors. Interested parties should address the Postmaster-General, Señor ANGEL PEÑA, at Asunción.

According to the papers of the Argentine Republic, a Mr. TORNQUIST, of Buenos Ayres, is busy forming a company for the erection of large refrigerating works in the interest of the fresh-meat export trade. The works will be put up at some convenient place in Buenos Ayres Province.

The "Electrical World" of May 12, 1900, notes that the Secretary of Communications of Mexico has asked for bids for the laying of submarine cables to connect the several ports on the Gulf of Mexico. If so, particulars can be obtained of the United States Legation in the city of Mexico.

An official report issued by the French Government says of the West India Islands in general that they now offer an excellent market to makers of sugar machinery. An American firm has obtained orders for the supply of the plant required for a sugar mill to be put up at

Banes (Cuba). The amount of the order is for 250,000 *francs*. Tenders have also been asked for the supply of the necessary plant for five new sugar mills to be erected near Gibara (Cuba). Large quantities of machinery and apparatus for sugar mills will shortly be wanted in Santo Domingo, Porto Rico, and other West Indian islands. The existing mills in Cuba will also have to be overhauled, so that large orders may be expected for machinery, apparatus, tools, and implements.

In view of the various public works projected in Peru, such as the construction of a mole, narrow-gauge railroad, waterworks, etc., the sending of catalogues (in Spanish text and measurements) giving an exact idea of the prices and nature of the article which could be furnished by the United States might prove profitable to American manufacturers.

These catalogues should relate to building material in general and especially to iron and steel beams, galvanized sheet iron, fixed and rolling material for railroads with normal and narrow gauge, elevated railroads, cables for suspension bridges, telephone material, cement, tiles, oil paints, and machinery for waterworks.

The Minaca Improvement Company, Limited, of Chihuahua, Mexico, is asking for prices in this market upon 10,000 feet of  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch iron pipe; also on a tank of 60,000 gallons capacity, with corresponding pump. The apparatus is needed to carry water from a river to the tank. Further particulars can be obtained from Mr. WILLIAM DALE, care of the above company. No. 164 Avenida de la Independencia.

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## TRADE WITH SPANISH AMERICA.

The Consul-General of Nicaragua at San Francisco reports that during the month of April, 1900, there were exported from that port to Nicaragua 6,273 packages, valued at \$35,087.26. The principal articles of export were flour, rice, groceries, potatoes, and manufactured goods.

The Consul-General of Mexico at New York reports the imports from Mexico through that port during the month of April last as follows: Henequén, 31,645 bales; coffee, 16,353 sacks; hides, 1,809 bundles; hides, loose, 6,281; itxle fiber, 2,798 bales; goatskins, 520 bundles; deerskins, 253 bundles; rubber, 214 bales; tobacco, leaf, 741 bales; cigars, 182 boxes; broom root, 1,900 bales; chicle gum, 304 bales; fustic, 20,258 pieces; tecali marble, 124 pieces; hair, 50 bales; lead bullion, 33,028 bars; metals, 267 boxes; ore, 70,575 sacks; sarsaparilla, 334 packages; vanilla, 28 boxes; alligator skins, 105; heron plumes, 5 boxes; bones, 1,113 packages; honey, 134 barrels; cedar, 2,884 logs; mahogany, 2,187 logs; jalap, 116 sacks; copper, 3,815 bars; garlic, 384 packages; oranges, 20 boxes; logwood, 2,409 bundles.

During the same month 11 steamships, carrying 101,137 packages, were cleared, and 14 steamships, bringing 200,937 packages, were entered.

The Consul-General of Venezuela at New York reports that during the month of April, 1900, there were exported from that port to Venezuela 52,897 packages, weighing 2,770,816 kilos, valued at \$406,206.36, as against 47,369 packages, weighing 2,559,363 kilos, valued at \$253,630.76, exported in April, 1899. From these figures it will be seen that there was a net increase during the month of April, 1900, of \$152,575.60.

The Mexican Consul at San Francisco reports that during the month of April, 1900, the total exports of American merchandise to Mexico amounted to \$125,446. In addition to this amount there were shipped to Mexican ports merchandise of foreign origin—such as rice, spices, silks, etc.—valued at \$6,800. The shipment of Mexican dollars to Hongkong during the month amounted to \$192,755.

The principal importations, together with their values, were as follows: Argentiferous ores, \$42,674; gold bullion, \$5,926; gold coin, \$1,800; silver dollars, \$6,046; silver bullion, \$219,275; lead, \$1,113; hides and furs, \$13,217; shells, \$1,356; drugs and medicines, \$1,481; limes, \$1,500; vegetables, \$1,409; sundry articles, \$5,448; total, \$301,245.

The Mexican Consul at San Diego, Cal., announces the exports to Mexico through his consulate during the month of April, 1900, to have been 8,908 packages, valued at \$38,660. The imports through that port into the United States for the same month were valued at \$8,856. This amount consists of the following items: Sheep, \$6,335; gold bullion, \$1,740; cattle, \$331; miscellaneous, \$450.

The Mexican Vice-Consul at Pascagoula, Miss., reports the exports to Mexico during the month of April, 1900, as follows: To Veracruz, lumber valued at \$2,115; to Progreso, lumber valued at \$1,079; to Campeche, lumber valued at \$2,580, and sundry merchandise amounting to \$1,224; total value of exports during April, \$6,998. During the month of May the exports of lumber were as follows: To Veracruz, \$2,974; to Progreso, \$1,462; to Laguna, \$1,079; to Frontera, \$1,598; total, \$7,113.

The Acting Consul-General of Bolivia at New York reports the exports to Bolivia during the month of May, 1900, as follows: Via Antofagasta, 1,087 packages, valued at \$14,683.37; via Mollendo, 1,374 packages, valued at \$10,975.79; via Villa Bella, 21 packages, valued at \$540.49; via Tarija, 65 packages, valued at \$3,992.56; via Puerto Suarez, 23 packages, \$941; a grand total of 2,570 packages, valued at \$31,138.21.



## BOOK NOTICES.

**Books and pamphlets sent to the Bureau of the American Republics, and containing subject-matter bearing upon the countries of the International Union of American Republics, will be treated under this caption in the Monthly Bulletin.**

The loss of life from lightning in the United States was greater in the year 1899 than in any other year for which statistics have been compiled. Prof. A. J. HENRY, in the current number of the "Monthly Weather Review," states that 562 persons were killed outright or suffered fatal injuries, and 820 persons received injuries varying from a slight shock to painful burns and temporary paralysis of some part of the body. In fatal cases death was usually instantaneous. The most common form of disability resulting from lightning stroke was a partial paralysis of the limbs. Professor HENRY argues that the zone of danger from a stroke of lightning is larger than the common belief that it does not exceed a few inches. He cites instances which show that the zone extends several feet.

In connection with this it is noted that the German Government has recently caused an inquiry to be made into the subject of lightning and its effect upon trees, the observations having been intrusted to the overseers of nine foresting stations scattered throughout an area of nearly 50,000 acres in the district of Lippe. It was found that of all forest trees the oak was the most susceptible to the attacks of lightning. The forests were found to comprise various kinds of trees, in the following proportions: Beech, 70 per cent; oak, 11 per cent; pine, 13 per cent; and fir, 6 per cent. Of the 275 trees which suffered from lightning during a period of several years, no fewer than 58 per cent were oak, 21 per cent fir, 8 per cent beech, and 7 per cent pines. It is noted that it has been stated by some English authorities that the beech is seldom or never struck by lightning. The truth of this statement has long been disproved, and it is interesting to see that the beech in Germany appears to be more often the subject of lightning stroke than the pine.

The second number of the "Revista Industrial e Mercantil," for the months of February and March, 1900, has been received at the Bureau, the first number having appeared in January of this year. This is a monthly review published by Mr. I. NERY DA FONSECA, Pernambuco, and edited by Dr. A. DE SONZA PINTO. As stated in the prospectus, the review will be devoted to the publication of all laws, decrees, and regulations of interest to industry and trade, commercial statistics, articles on economic questions, the products, transportation facilities,

commercial houses, manufactories, etc., of each State, in addition to advertisements.

The present number forms a large quarto volume of nearly two hundred pages. The typography is clear and the paper of good quality. An idea of the importance of the subjects treated may be had from the following summary of contents: Custom-house Tariff; Estimate of Ordinary Receipts of the Republic; Estimate of Ordinary Expenditures of the Republic; Estimate for the State of Pernambuco; Estimate of the State of Ceará; Estimate of the State of Alagoas; Estimate of the State of Pará; The Recent Coffee Crisis; Regulation for the Collection of Taxes for Consumption; Irrigation; National Laboratory of Analyses; New Stamp Regulation; Decisions of the Treasury Department; Postal and Telegraphic Guide; Contract of the 15th of June, 1898 (Funding Loan); Bulletin of the Tariff Commission of Pernambuco and Pará; Finances of the Republic; Commercial Statistics of the Port of Recife.

“*Der Kautschuk und Seine Quellen*” (Rubber and Its Sources), by Dr. ROBERT HENRIQUES, 1 pamphlet, in 8°. 31 p., 5 tables, 4 maps, Steinkopff & Springer, Berlin.

This short monograph contains a succinct but methodical treatise of our actual knowledge of the production of rubber, being the reproduction of two lectures delivered by the author at Berlin, one before the German Chemists' Association, the other before the German Polytechnic Society.

This work consists of two parts. The first shows the various methods of gathering the rubber in the principal countries of origin, recapitulates the data relative to the productive plants, and the commercial methods. The second part is the most interesting because it combines under form of synoptical tables and for each rubber-producing country the commercial and indigenous names of the different kinds, the botanical source, the most noteworthy properties of each, the average price per kilogram, and (data relatively new) the amount of resinous substances. There are five tables descriptive of the rubber of South and Central America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. There are four abridged maps at the end of the pamphlet, indicating in a very clear manner all the localities in the world where rubber is produced and exported.

The “*Revista Maritima Brasileira*” devotes its May number to the commemoration of the “Fourth Century of the Discovery of Brazil.” Under the head “*A Armada de Cabral e a Descoberta do Brazil*” (The Fleet of CABRAL and the Discovery of Brazil) the history of the discovery is narrated. It is full of historical reminiscences, dwelling upon the events which preceded and occasioned the great expedition which resulted in the discovery of Brazil, and ending with the ingenious narrative of PEDRO LOPES CAMINHA, the chronicler who accompanied the

expedition. Under the title of "Elementos nauticos das Descobertas" (Nautical elements of the Discovery) the editor describes the vessels of the fleet, instruments of navigation, armament, flags, personnel, crew, salaries, sleeping accommodations, food, uniforms, etc.

This number has a special cover and contains a number of fine illustrations.

"Die Entdeckung und der Entdecker Brasiliens" (The Discovery and Discoverer of Brazil) is the title of a work recently published by Mr. BRUNO STYSINSKI. As indicated by the title, the subject treated is the discovery and discoverer of Brazil. The first chapter is devoted to the discoveries made by the Portuguese in the latter half of the fifteenth century. The second chapter treats of the discovery of Brazil. Another contains a biographical sketch of PEDRO ALVARES CABRAL. The third and fourth chapters treat of Brazil and its inhabitants at the time of the discovery of the country, its colonization and civilization. The author reviews the colonizing expeditions sent out by the mother country, the Spanish, French, and Dutch invasions, and the civil wars. The book reveals a perfect knowledge on the part of the author of nearly all the historical documents on Brazil.

In a recent report to the Department of State at Washington, Mr. JOHN F. WINTER, United States Consul at Annaberg, Germany, writes regarding the "Commerce of the World" and the share of trade for each of the leading nations engaged therein. He says that of the \$18,000,000,000 worth of commercial transactions each year, the share of the United Kingdom is now 18.3 per cent, that of Germany 10.8 per cent, and that of the United States 9.7 per cent. He observes that "Germany has built up its foreign commerce at the expense of England, and the United States, just entering the field, is building up a great foreign trade at the expense of both England and Germany. In Australia, in Africa, in South America, and in China the commercial representatives of each nation are fencing for vantage ground upon which to build safe markets for their home industries."

"Brasilien, Land und Leute" (Brazil, the Land and its People), by MORITZ LAMBERG, Leipsic, HERMANN ZIEGER, 1899. This is another good book on Brazil, treating of ethical, political, and economical relations and development of the country. The author gives his experiences and the result of his studies during a twenty years' residence in one of the most interesting countries of the world, and one which bids fair to be the land of promise for many millions of people who will leave the Old World to seek homes there. The book is divided into 19 chapters and is profusely and richly illustrated.

The simplest method of raising sunken vessels consists in using the buoyant force of the air contained in chambers hermetically sealed.

With more difficult tasks special apparatus must be used. A writer in "*La Revue Générale de Chimie Pure et Appliquée*" suggests simplifying the process by generating the necessary buoyant gas below water. Experiments with calcium carbide in this direction were made by a French engineer, L. MATIGNON, and these have been so successful that a company has been formed for the purpose of using acetylene in raising sunken vessels.

The "*South American Journal*" (London) of May 5, 1900, publishes a portrait and sketch of Chevalier MANOEL DE OLIVERIA LIMA, Chargé d'Affaires of the Brazilian Legation in London and formerly First Secretary of the Legation in Washington. After referring to the books which Mr. LIMA has written, the Journal states that Mr. THOMAS C. DAWSON, the Secretary of the United States Legation in Rio de Janeiro, is translating one of them into English. This book is entitled "*Nos Estados Unidos: Impressões Politicas e Sociais*" (In the United States: Political and Social Impressions).

The "*La Plata Post*" states that Señor PABLO GROUSSAC, director of the National Library in Buenos Ayres, has been instructed by the Minister of Agriculture to prepare a book upon the Argentine Republic. In addition to a general description of the country the book will also be a study of its progress intellectually and socially. The book is intended for circulation abroad for the purpose of encouraging immigration, and will appear in Spanish, English, and French. It is to be completed by July 31, 1900.

"*Geografía de la República Mexicana*" (Geography of the Republic of Mexico), by EDUARDO NOREGA, Mexico, CH. BOURET, 1898. The book contains numerous small maps, besides illustrations of cities, buildings, and monuments, and presents a short sketch of the configuration and orographic and hydrographic conditions of the country. In addition there are descriptions of its economical development and political organization, with the most interesting details regarding the several States.

Considerable attention has been devoted recently to experiments in the extraction of rubber from the leaves, branches, and young sprouts of the rubber tree. However, according to a paper published by Mr. PARKIN in the "*Revue des Cultures Coloniales*," giving the results of his efforts in this direction, the writer does not believe that rubber so obtained can ever be of any commercial value, and he advises that the attention of the producers be devoted to a serious study of the best conditions for extracting rubber from the trunks of adult trees.

The Mexican Government has compiled a very useful book called: "*La Ley del Timbre*" (The Stamp Law), being a revised edition of

the stamp law. This work has been published under the direction of the Treasury Department, and includes all laws in force from April 25, 1893, up to March 31, 1900. The work has been carefully revised. Official copies can be obtained from the Treasury Department of the Mexican Government in the City of Mexico. Price, \$1 per copy.

The successors to the publishing house of J. BALLESCA Y CIA., of Mexico, have recently published parts 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the work entitled, "México, su Evolución Social" (Mexico, Her Social Evolution). These parts are the commencement of Volume II, and treat of the colonial and independence periods of that Republic. The publication is interspersed with beautiful engravings, is handsomely printed, and is a valuable and an attractive work.

"Veracruz Ilustrado" (Vera Cruz Illustrated) is the title of a book which will soon be published in English and Spanish. The author, Mr. J. R. SOUTHWORTH, is well known in the United States and Mexico, having published books on the States of Sonora and Sinaloa, and the Territory of Lower California. The work will be illustrated with numerous engravings. This, together with the clear and concise style of the writer, will render the book an interesting, desirable, and useful publication.

A brochure containing every decision of the "United States Board on Geographic Names" has recently been published and is ready for distribution. This Board was created for the purpose of fixing the proper methods of spelling geographic names in the United States. This was found necessary because of the different spelling of the same names by the several governmental departments.

The "Meteorological Chart of the Great Lakes," which in 1899 was issued monthly during the season of navigation as an experiment by the United States Weather Bureau, will hereafter be a permanent feature of the Weather Bureau work. The chart proved so serviceable last year that it is now indispensable to vessels sailing between the lake ports.

"Elementos de Agricultura Tropica" (Elements of Tropical Agriculture) is the name of an agricultural work published at San José, Costa Rica. The author, Señor J. B. ROMERO CASAL, divides the work into six parts, as follows: Vegetal Physiology, Atmospheric Agents, Agricultural Lands, System of Labor, Tropical Agriculture, and Stock Raising.

"Pro Patria" is the name of an historical pamphlet by Señor FRANCISCO MARÍA IGLESIAS, published at San José, Costa Rica, in 1899. The author is a learned and well-known public man. Like all the

writings of Señor IGLESIAS, this pamphlet is distinguished by the brilliancy of its style, and the pleasing and entertaining manner in which the subject is handled.

“Skizzen und Typen aus dem Italien der Neuen Welt” (Sketches and Types of the Italy of the New World), by ERNST BELOW, Allgemeiner Verein für deutsche Litterateur, Berlin, 1899. An interesting book, written in a pleasing style; treats more of the personal experiences of the author, who practiced his profession of medicine in Mexico for a number of years.

“Mexico, das Land und seine Leute” (Mexico, the Land and Its People), by HENRICH LEMCKE, Berlin, ALFRED SCHALL, 1900. The author, a special commissioner of the Mexican Government, has prepared a guide and geographical handbook of the country, consisting of 290 pages, with maps and numerous illustrations.

The “Argentinisches Wochenblatt” states that the German Government pays 300,000 *marks* for the support of German schools in foreign countries. Of this sum, schools in the Argentine Republic receive 19,200 marks, those in Brazil 29,000 marks, and those in Chile 7,500 marks.

The Geographical and Statistical Society of the Republic of Mexico has issued a special Bulletin, dedicated to the commemoration of the forty-ninth anniversary of the foundation of the society. It contains biographical sketches of the principal officers of the society from its foundation to the present time, illustrated by numerous engravings.

The second volume of the work entitled, “La Flora Argentina” (The Flora of the Argentine Republic) has just come from the press. It contains 52 engravings with the descriptions of the flora represented; is written in plain, concise, clear language, and is especially adapted to the young who wish to study the flora of that Republic.

“Estadística de la Instrucción Pública del Perú” (Statistics of Public Instruction in Peru) is a work published by the Peruvian Government containing data for the year 1898. The book is embellished with comprehensive statistical tables and contains complete information regarding the schools of the Republic.

“El Gramor. Estudio sobre la Adopción de una Nueva Unidad Monetaria” (The Gram—An Essay upon the Adoption of a New Monetary Unit) is the title of a work published by Señor ÁLVARO BRANCHI TUPPER, Santiago, Chile. It is a monetary treatise, advocates the adoption of the metric system, the single gold standard, and the use of silver as a fractionary currency.

“La Fumagina del Cafeto” (The Fumigation of the Coffee Tree), by Señor ADOLFO TONDUZ, is the title of a book published at San José, Costa Rica. It treats of the diseases of the coffee plant and the manner of combating them.

“Diccionario Latino-Español” is the title of the first Latin-Spanish dictionary published in South America. It is an excellent work, containing 1,000 pages, and supplies a particular need in this field of study.

A new “Commercial Directory” of the City of Mexico is now being prepared for publication. The first edition will consist of 10,000 copies. Messrs. JOHN H. GREAVES & Co., of the City of Mexico, are the publishers.

“Primera Exposición Regional Tabasqueña” (First Treatise on the State of Tabasco) is the title of a book which treats of the plants, flowers, and fruits of the State of Tabasco, Mexico, by Messrs. ALBERTO CORREA and HIGINIO PINTADO.

“Boletín de Estadística” (Statistical Bulletin) is the title of a statistical work now being printed by the Government of the State of Puebla, at Puebla, Mexico.

MR. JAMES MURRAY DOBSON is the author of a work, just published in London, entitled “Obras del puerto de Buenos Aires” (Improvements at the Port of Buenos Ayres).

“Datos para la Historia: La Revolución del Sud” (Historical Data: The Revolution of the South) is the title of a historical work compiled by Mr. MANUEL C. ARAMAYO, of La Paz, Bolivia.

“El Hogar de la Escuela,” etc. (The Fireside of the School), is the title of a book just published by Señor Don RODOLFO MÉNDEZ, of Mérida, Yucatan.

“Norden” is the name of a new weekly, published at Buenos Ayres, in the Scandinavian language. It is the first publication in that language ever issued in the Argentine Republic.

El Señor Lic. Don RÓMULO E. DURÓN, has just published the second volume of his work called: “Honduras Literaria” (Literary Honduras).

## LIBRARY ACCESSIONS DURING MAY.

## BY GIFT AND EXCHANGE.

- American Jewish Historical Society: Publications of American Jewish Historical Society. No. 8. Baltimore: Friedenwald Press, 1900. 168 (5) pp. 8°.
- Cantan, David Marambio: *Encyclopedia Militar*. Buenos Aires: Imp. "Europea," 1899. 434 pp. 4°.
- Iowa Masonic Library: *Quarterly Bulletin of the Iowa Masonic Library*. Cedar Rapids, 1900. 49 pp. 8°.
- Italian Chamber of Commerce: (Buenos Aires) *Gli Italiani nella Argentina*. Buenos Aires: Comp. Sud-Americana de Billetes de Banco, 1898. 592 pp. F<sup>2</sup>.
- "La Colmena": Estatutos de "La Colmena" Sociedad anonima de construcciones i ahorros. Lima: Imprenta "La Industria," 1900. 57 pp. 8°.
- Las Casas, A. De: *Cartas al pueblo Americano sobre Cuba y Las Repùblicas Latino-Americanas*. Tercera edición. Buenos Aires: Tip. de "El Correo Español," 1897. 184 (3) pp. 8°.
- Mexican Railway Company: *Report of the directors of the Mexican Railway Company for half year ending Dec. 31, 1899*. London: WILL BROWN & Co. (1900). 16 pp. 4°.
- Museo de La Plata. *Revista del Museo de La Plata*. La Plata, Talleres del Museo, 1890-91. 470 (2) pp. 4°.
- Newberry Library. (Illinois.) Chicago, Hollister Bros., 1900. 64 pp. 8°.
- Ochiltree, Thomas P. *The political status of Cuba*. Washington, B. S. Adams (1900). 14 pp. 8°.
- Silk Association of America. *Twenty-eighth annual report of the Silk Association of America*. 1872-1900. New York, Silk Exchange Building, 1900. 109 pp. 8°.
- Sociedad Mexicana de Geografía y estadística. *Boletín especial para el cuadragésimo noveno aniversario de la fundación de la Sociedad abril 20 de 1900*. Mexico, Tip. de Trinidad Sánchez Santos, 1900. 156 pp. 8°.
- Sphinx Club. (New York.) *Report of proceedings at the March meeting, 1900*. New York, 1900. 12 pp. 8°.

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## ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

- Estadística de los ferrocarriles en explotación*. Buenos Aires, Tip. de la Penitenciaría Nacional, 1900. 199 pp. 4°.
- Leyes nacionales sancionadas en el periodo legislativo de 1899*. Buenos Aires, Tip. de la "Revista Nacional," 1900. 199 pp. 4°.

## BELGIUM.

- Chemins de fer, postes, télégraphes, téléphones et marine, Compte rendu des opérations pendant l'année, 1898*. Bruxelles, J. Goemaere, 1899. 201, 23 pp. 4°.
- Statistique médicale de l'armée Belge année 1898*. Bruxelles, J. Goemaere, 1899. 49 pp. 4°.

## BOLIVIA.

- Ministerio de Instrucción y Justicia. *Método gradual concentrico. Plan de estudios y programas de enseñanza secundaria*. La Paz, Imp. y Lit. de "El Nacional," 1900. 49 pp. 8°.

## COSTA RICA.

- Mensaje del Presidente de la República 1° de Mayo 1900*. San José, "Tip. Nacional," 1900. XVII. 4°.



## ECUADOR.

Informe de la "Junta de Socorros" de Guayaquil. Guayaquil, Imp. Bolivia, 1898. 203 pp. 8°.

## GERMANY.

Department of the Interior. Deutsches Handels Archiv., Jhr. 1897, May. Berlin, E. T. Mittler & Son, 1897. 190 (6) pp. sq. 8°.

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## GREAT BRITAIN.

Foreign Office. Report on trade and commerce of Rosario, 1899. London, Harrison & Sons, 1900. 8 pp. 8°.

House of Commons. Accounts relating to trade and navigation of the United Kingdom. London, Wyman & Sons, 1900. 175 pp. 8°.

## MEXICO.

Boletín de Estadística fiscal. No. 200. December, 1899. Mexico, Oficina Impresora del Timbre, 1900. 413 pp. 4°.

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Summary of imports and exports. No. 15. February, 1900. Mexico, Sec. de Hacienda y Credito Publico, 1900. 6 pp. 4°.

## PERU.

Aguas minerales de Yura. \* \* \* Lima, Imp. Torres Aguirre, 1900: 36 pp. 8°.

Bolsa Comercial: Memoria de Camara Sindical de la bolsa comercial de Lima. Lima, Imp. Gil., 1900. 29 pp. 8°.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural Imports and Exports. 1895-1899. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900.

Economic Grasses. F. Lamson-Scribner. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 85 pp. 8°.

Farmers' Institutes. \* \* \* L. H. Bailey. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 34 pp.

Some Insects Injurious to Garden Crops. Chittenden. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 92 pp. 8°.

Sources of the Agricultural Imports of the United States. 1894-1898. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 118 pp. 8°.

## PATENT OFFICE.

Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1900. 1037-1242 pp. 4°.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

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- Chicago Record. Chicago, Illinois. Daily.
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# BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS.

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

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VOL. VIII.

JUNIO, 1900.

No. 6.

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## CONFERENCIA INTERNACIONAL AMERICANA.

Los miembros de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas se reunieron en el salón de recepciones diplomáticas del Departamento de Estado en Wáshington el 13 de junio de 1900.

Estuvieron representados los países siguientes:

República Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Estados Unidos, Guatemala, Haití, México, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Perú, Salvador y Venezuela.

El objeto de la reunión fué discutir sobre el punto y fecha en que debe verificarse la Conferencia Internacional Americana. El Señor Azpíroz, Embajador de México, hizo una invitación oficial á nombre de su Gobierno, á fin de que la Conferencia se verifique en la capital de aquella República.

Esta invitación fué aceptada, y todos los miembros de la Unión manifestaron su sincero agradecimiento al Gobierno mexicano.

Se resolvió que se dejase á los Gobiernos de México y los Estados Unidos el fijar la época de la Conferencia.

En una reunión de la Comisión Ejecutiva de la Unión Internacional, que se verificó el 15 de junio, se resolvió que la Conferencia sería convocada á reunirse en la Ciudad de México en una fecha comprendida entre los meses de abril y julio de 1901. Las invitaciones han de ser enviadas por el Gobierno mexicano, el que fijará la fecha definitiva.

## PRODUCCIÓN DE ORO Y PLATA EN 1899.

El valor, en moneda de los Estados Unidos, del oro producido en el año de 1899 fué de \$312,307,819, contribuyendo á formar esta cantidad la Australia, las Repúblicas del Sur de África, los Estados Unidos, Rusia y el Canadá, en una proporción equivalente al 86.5 por ciento, siendo Australia la que en mayor cantidad contribuyó, figurando en la estadística con \$79,206,180, en moneda americana. Á pesar de que muchas regiones productoras de este metal se desarrollan más y más cada año se cree como seguro que la producción total del mundo en 1900 no llegará á la cifra arriba indicada, correspondiente al año anterior.

El valor, también en moneda de los Estados Unidos, de la cantidad total de plata que se produjo en 1899 fué de \$104,100,163, siendo los Estados Unidos el país que con mayor cantidad contribuyó á formar este total, siguiéndole muy de cerca la república de México, con un total de \$32,788,565, no mucho menor que el de los Estados Unidos, cuya producción fué por valor de \$34,036,168.

## LA PRODUCCIÓN DE PLATA EN EL MUNDO.

Á continuación se reproduce el artículo que aparece en la edición del 31 de enero del "Boletín de la Sociedad Nacional de Minería," de Santiago de Chile, traducido del periódico "The Engineering and Mining Journal:"

"Las predicciones hechas hace algunos años por personas que no conocen las condiciones que gobiernan á una producción, respecto de que la producción de plata decaería rapidamente en el mundo, y que debía esperarse que bajaría á un punto tal que sería insignificante, no han podido realizarse hasta ahora. Á pesar del bajo precio de la plata, la producción del metal blanco se ha mantenido en un alto nivel. Ya en 1898 se presentó un respetable aumento de 266,314 kilogramos, ó sea un 7 por ciento de aumento sobre 1897. Tomando la producción de los ocho últimos años encontramos las cifras siguientes:

Kilogramos.		Kilogramos.	
1891 .....	4, 479, 649	1895 .....	5, 667, 691
1892 .....	5, 935, 315	1896 .....	5, 496, 178
1893 .....	5, 339, 746	1897 .....	5, 663, 305
1894 .....	5, 554, 144	1898 .....	5, 929, 619

1 kilogramo = 32.21 onzas troy.

"Se verá por la tabla anterior que la producción de plata de 1898 fué mayor que la de los años anteriores, contando desde 1892, y que llegó casi á igualar á la de ese año, que se consideró como una producción extraordinaria. Y, sin embargo, esa gran cantidad de plata fué absor-

bida por los mercados del mundo sin gran dificultad y á precios que no diferían mucho de los de años anteriores. En realidad, el precio del metal se elevó un poco hacia el fin de ese año, y se ha conservado bien desde esa fecha.

“En la época de las predicciones á que nos hemos referido, expusimos nuestras razones por lo que dudabamos llegaran á realizarse, expresando al mismo tiempo nuestra opinión de que, por el contrario, la producción continuaría en gran escala. Las razones de nuestra creencia en aquella época (la cual ha sido realizada con el tiempo) puede comprenderse por lo que pasamos á exponer. Una gran cantidad de plata provendrá como un producto secundario, en conexión con otros metales, como el oro, el cobre y el plomo. La plata, además, continuará empleándose extensamente en usos de ornamentación y domésticos; en las artes, su posición como metal decorativo está bastante bien cimentada por la costumbre, para que no sea fácil sustituirla por otro metal, sin contar toda la que se emplea en la moneda menuda, aun en aquellos países más apegados al talón de oro.

“Los Estados Unidos en 1898 fueron los mayores productores, con un total de 58,763,127 onzas, ó sean 1,827,723 kilogramos. México les siguió en producción con 1,768,501 kilogramos. Ninguna otra nación se aproximó á la producción de éstas. Australasia, que fué la tercera en rango, tuvo un total de 534,360 kilogramos. Bolivia, probablemente, fué la cuarta, á pesar de que los informes de Alemania dan un exceso de más de 138,440 kilogramos. Los informes oficiales alemanes dan la producción de plata fina de las refinerías de ese país; pero se incluye en esos datos la obtenida de minerales importados y metales en pasta. La producción de los Estados Unidos incluye solamente la que ha sido obtenida de minerales del propio país. Además de esa cantidad, los fundidores y refinadores beneficiaron en 1898 un total de 39,784,000 onzas, ó sean 1,237,560 kilogramos, provenientes de minerales y pastas de otros países.

“Es bueno hacer notar que la mayor parte de la plata del mundo sale del Continente americano del norte, que en 1898 dió 3,784,637 kilogramos, ó sea un 63.5 por ciento del total. Los países de Sud América, que en los siglos dieciseis, diecisiete y dieciocho mandaron cantidades fabulosas de plata á Europa, hoy ocupan un lugar muy inferior en la escala de la producción; y el producto total de todos juntos fué de 605,671 kilogramos, ó sea 10.2 por ciento de la producción total del mundo. Bolivia, Perú, Chile y, probablemente, la Argentina del oeste, tienen grandes reservas de minerales de plata, y podrán aumentar un día ú otro en el porvenir la producción total.

“La producción europea es de poca importancia. Fuera de Alemania, á que nos hemos referido ya, la otra nación que produce también alguna plata es España, que se obtiene casi toda de minerales de plomo.

“En Asia, la nación más importante como productora de plata es el Japón. Hay, sin embargo, motivos para creer que se obtiene alguna plata en China, pero es casi imposible determinar la cantidad. De África no se tiene ningún dato sobre que se obtenga plata alguna. La producción de Australasia proviene en su mayor parte de Broken Hill y otras minas circunvecinas del Barrier Range, en Nueva Gales del Sur; sin embargo, alguna sale de la Nueva Zelandia.

“Hemos tratado de cuando en cuando acerca de la inutilidad de discutir sobre el costo que origina la extracción de la plata, pues es casi imposible sentar un término medio por lo mucho que difieren los gastos en los distintos países, y aun en distintas minas de un mismo distrito. Sólo diremos que si aun con el aumento de producción se paga á 58½, es casi probable que en la mayoría de los casos la plata sólo podrá ponerse al mercado por un poco menos que ese precio.

“Los presentes son indican que la producción sigue aumentando y el producto total de 1899 será mayor que el de 1898.”

## DESARROLLO DE LOS FERROCARRILES ELÉCTRICOS EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Dice “El Economista,” de Lima, que hace diez años había solamente 86 millas de vía para ferrocarriles eléctricos en los Estados Unidos. En la actualidad hay más de 14,000 millas. Durante estos diez años la propulsión en las vías urbanas se ha revolucionado. Los tranvías de caballos han desaparecido enteramente de casi todas las líneas, y dentro de poco se verán como una curiosidad; las líneas de cable han alcanzado probablemente su máximo de extensión, mientras que los carros operados por electricidad han aumentado desde 172 á más de 37,000. Estos son algunos de los hechos más notables demostrados por el “Western Electrician” en un artículo titulado “Una década de desarrollo de los ferrocarriles eléctricos.” Hé aquí las cifras, etc.

	Enero 1—	
	1888.	1898.
Número total de compañías de tranvías en operación en los Estados Unidos.....	615	806
Número de sistemas de tranvías de tracción animal.....	566	167
Número de sistemas de tranvías operados por cable.....	18	38
Número de sistemas de tranvías de tracción de vapor (sin incluir los elevados).....	35	33
Número de sistemas de tranvías de tracción eléctrica.....	21	698
Extensión en millas de las vías para carros de caballos.....	5,474	1,010
Extensión en millas de las vías de cable.....	217	505
Extensión en millas de las vías de vapor (sin incluir los elevados).....	216	145
Extensión en millas de las vías eléctricas.....	86	13,580
Total de millas.....	5,933	15,250
Número de carros de caballos.....	21,736	3,664
Número de carros de cable.....	2,777	5,957
Número de carros de vapor y máquina.....	423	318
Número de carros eléctricos.....	172	37,097
Número total de carros de todas descripciones.....	25,108	47,036



En 1888 las vías para carros de caballos representaban más de 91 por ciento. Al principio de este año las vías para carros de caballos eran un poco más de  $6\frac{1}{2}$  por ciento del total, mientras las de tracción eléctrica representaban más de un 89 por ciento, y continuaban aumentando todavía. Es importante hacer notar, sin embargo, que en estos diez años de desarrollo eléctrico se ha progresado muy poco en la sustitución de motores eléctricos por locomotoras de vapor, excepción hecha de los ferrocarriles elevados.

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## LA PRODUCCIÓN DE LANA EN EL MUNDO.

La producción de lana en el globo puede valuarse anualmente en 8,000,000,000 de kilogramos, que representan un valor de 8,000,000,000 de pesetas, dice "La Producción Nacional," de Buenos Aires. Australia y la Nueva Zelandia poseen 75,000,000 de carneros, que rinden 100,000,000 de kilogramos de lana, cuyo valor se estima en 600,000,000 de pesetas. En el Cabo de Buena Esperanza los rebaños producían 15,000,000 de kilogramos de lana, que importan 50,000,000 de pesetas. En La Plata se producen anualmente 100,000,000 de kilogramos de lana, cuyo valor se calcula en 250,000,000 de pesetas. En los Estados Unidos hay unos 50,000,000 de carneros, que no producen suficiente cantidad de lana para abastecer el mercado americano, siendo necesario importar grandes cantidades de ese producto textil de Australia y la Argentina. En Europa se cuentan 200,000,000 de carneros, que dan igual cantidad de kilogramos de lana, calculándose su valor en 900,000,000 de pesetas. Marruecos, Argelia y Túnez producen lana en cantidades apreciables y de calidad excelente. Rusia es la nación de Europa que produce mayor cantidad de lana; siguen á ella, Inglaterra, Alemania, Francia, Austria, Italia y España. Debe hacerse observar, por constituir un dato muy interesante á la vez que exacto, que si bien España ocupa el último lugar en esta estadística, es solamente con respecto á la cantidad de su producción, pues su lana, especialmente la del ganado merino, genuina y exclusivamente español, alcanza mejor precio que cualquiera otra lana en el mundo. La India, el Asia central y la China se calcula producen 150,000,000 de kilogramos anualmente.

## PRODUCCIÓN DE CAFÉ DE JAVA.

El “Indische Mercur,” de Batavia, Java, al tratar del tráfico de café durante los años de 1896-1899, da los siguientes datos estadísticos:

*Café de Java (en sacos de 60 kilogramos).*

Años.	Plantaciones del gobierno.		Plantaciones de particulares.	
	Cosecha total.	Exportación a Holanda.	Cosecha total.	Exportación a Holanda.
1890-91 .....	371,000	108,300	325,000	217,600
1891-92 .....	597,000	271,000	409,000	344,100
1892-93 .....	68,000	443,700	124,000	320,700
1893-94 .....	363,000	123,600	455,000	260,000
1894-95 .....	339,000	260,200	333,000	402,200
1895-96 .....	265,000	238,800	456,000	307,500
1896-97 .....	381,000	149,000	392,000	409,300
1897-98 .....	94,000	289,100	150,000	353,900
1898-99 .....	207,000	106,900	510,000	261,100

*Importaciones de café en Holanda.*

Años.	Total.	Java.	Menado.	Macasar.	África.	Santos.	América Central.
1890 .....	922,200	580,700	13,100	13,500	42,000	232,600	3,900
1893 .....	1,031,100	608,600	11,200	9,100	68,500	277,400	16,700
1894 .....	937,500	622,100	1,600	10,900	52,500	185,100	19,100
1895 .....	1,178,800	598,300	5,800	7,200	55,200	452,900	22,000
1896 .....	1,195,300	582,700	1,700	10,800	49,600	502,900	3,200
1897 .....	1,436,800	659,700	11,300	23,600	77,400	615,000	2,300
1898 .....	1,522,700	464,600	3,400	15,500	80,600	875,700	11,700
1899 .....	1,702,500	594,500	10,000	10,000	59,400	919,100	12,700

## CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL ADUANERO.

Refiriéndose á este asunto, del cual se hizo mención en el BOLETÍN MENSUAL del mes pasado, “La Semana Mercantil,” de Mexico, publica, en su número de 14 de mayo del año en curso, el artículo siguiente:

“Á los diversos Congresos que se intenta celebrar en París aprovechando la apertura de la Exposición Universal, hay que agregar el que una Comisión compuesta de representantes de la administración del comercio y de la industria, trata de llevar á cabo para preparar un sistema internacional en el régimen de las aduanas.

“El Congreso debe reunirse del 30 de julio al 4 de agosto próximo, y tendrá como objeto principal estudiar los medios más prácticos para resolver las múltiples cuestiones que se derivan en la actualidad de la aplicación de las leyes y reglamentos de aduanas, y convenir ó aprobar cierto número de conclusiones en previsión de que más tarde sean sancionadas por una Conferencia diplomática.

“No se ocupará el Congreso en manera alguna en cuestiones de

doctrina ni de puras teorías, y dejará también de lado toda discusión de orden económico relativa á la protección y al libre cambio, consagrándose únicamente al estudio de los procedimientos administrativos en materia de aduanas, forma de percepción de este impuesto, formalidades que se exigen en los diferentes países; en una palabra, del mecanismo de las aduanas y de las mejoras susceptibles de introducir en el mismo.

“El Congreso ha inscrito en su programa, como base de estudio para algunas reformas, los temas siguientes:

“Modificaciones que deben introducirse en las formalidades para el despacho de mercaderías y viajeros.

“Representación de los interesados en los reconocimientos y análisis que efectúen las aduanas.

“Agencias de aduanas y certificados de origen.

“Facilidades otorgadas á los viajeros de comercio para el despacho de sus muestrarios.

“Medios para mejorar y ampliar los depósitos comerciales.

“Necesidad de modificar el sistema de estadística aduanera adoptando nomenclaturas y términos uniformes.

“Concurso recíproco que podrían prestarse las aduanas de los diversos países, para abreviar sus operaciones respectivas.

“Para dar á conocer mejor su programa, la Comisión organizadora ha redactado el siguiente cuestionario, que la misma envía á todas aquellas personas á quienes de alguna manera pueda interesar la reunión del Congreso:

“1. Estadísticas aduaneras.

“(a) ¿Qué medios son más fáciles para asegurar en las mejores condiciones de exactitud y de uniformidad la publicación de estadísticas de aduanas?

“(b) ¿Qué reglas podrían adoptarse para introducir en las nomenclaturas y en las estadísticas aduaneras los nuevos artículos de la industria y los productos no comprendidos en las tarifas existentes?

“(c) ¿Cuál es el procedimiento que debe emplearse para asegurar la exactitud de las declaraciones en cuanto á la clase y destino real de los productos que se exportan?

“2. Condiciones en que deberían ser expedidos los certificados de origen, para que apareciese su indubitable autenticidad.

“3. Determinación de una base uniforme para el cálculo de los derechos ad valorem.

“4. Reglamentación uniforme de las taras legales y de los pesos netos.

“5. Medios de establecer un sistema internacional referentes á las muestras de los viajeros de comercio.

“Definición de las muestras y manera de justificar la calidad de los objetos declarados como tales.

“6. Régimen aplicado á las mercancías nacionales de vuelta del extranjero, y concesiones recíprocas que podrían otorgarse Francia y las demás naciones.

“7. ¿Conviene que los expedientes por calificación de mercaderías en las aduanas se envíen en todos los países á la resolución de sus peritos técnicos, con audiencia de los interesados?

“8. ¿Procede que en interés del comercio los empleados de aduanas presten su concurso á los interesados, legalizando las operaciones hechas por los agentes despachadores?

“¿Por qué medios podría hacerse efectivo este auxilio?

“9. Acuerdos necesarios para facilitar, abreviando tiempo, el despacho de las mercancías importadas, y especialmente procurar á los deudores los medios de presentar declaraciones exactas y conformes á la nomenclatura del arancel.

10. ¿Qué procedimiento convendría adoptar para el reconocimiento de los equipajes de viajeros, á fin de que este servicio se practicase rápidamente con las menores molestias para los interesados?

“11. Comparación del régimen de los depósitos comerciales en los diversos países, y estudio de las concesiones recíprocas que podrían otorgarse en interés general del comercio.

“12. Examen del régimen aduanero internacional referente á los paquetes postales.

“13. Organización de conferencias periódicas internacionales.

“Establecimiento de un repertorio internacional para la clasificación de las mercancías.

“Este programa se completará más adelante en vista de las indicaciones y observaciones que se dirijan á la Comisión organizadora.”

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## EL RAMIO.

De “El Economista,” de Lima, se ha tomado el artículo sobre el ramio que á continuación se leerá:

“La exposición de fibras de ramio en los diversos estados de su beneficio ha llamado recientemente la atención en la feria de mecánicos de Boston. Sabemos que el sistema empleado para beneficio del ramio, según fué expuesto en Boston, es químico, y como en él se usa el agua fría, no hay gasto de combustible. Es su inventor Mr. CHARLES TOPPAN, de Salem, Massachusetts, Estados Unidos de America. En un artículo referente á la exhibición de Mr. TOPPAN, dice el ‘Boston Herald’: ‘En un ensayo reciente se probaron hilos de dos materiales de igual calidad; el lino se reventó á las 78 libras y el ramio soportó una tensión de 115 libras, que era toda la fuerza de la máquina, sin reventarse.

“El ramio es la fibra más fuerte que se conoce, y no se enmohece ni pudre mientras la polilla no lo toca. Su manufactura es económica y con él hay menos desperdicios que con cualquier otro de los materiales comunmente usados. Se arranca del tallo la corteza y se le seca en el campo con menos gastos que los que ocasiona la preparación del lino ó del henequén; y desde el estado de corteza hasta el de fibra blanca, la disminución en peso no es más de 9 á 13 por ciento menos que la del lino, la lana ó el algodón. Su duración se ve en las envolturas de las momias egipcias, que Mr. TOPPAN asegura son de dicho material. La exposición comprende la corteza en su estado primitivo, y diversas formas de su fibra, demostrando el procedimiento fabril é incluyendo ejemplos de su facilidad para tomar colores. También se exhiben varios artefactos completos, entre ellos cordaje fino y grueso, tela para velas, forros de muebles, alfombras, guarniciones, materiales para vestidos de señoras, estopillas y batistas tan finas, parejas y bonitas como las mejores de Irlanda.

“Su empleo en la fabricación de alfombras y forros de muebles, de cortinas, etc., promete ventajas especiales, pues está á prueba de la picadura de la polilla y otros insectos destructores, mientras que basta tomar en la mano una pieza del género para convencerse de su duración que igualará á la del hierro. Otra ventaja es que se puede trabajar la fibra fácilmente y con buen éxito en la actual maquinaria para algodón, de manera que no es necesario un largo período de ensayos para ponerla en uso general. El único inconveniente es la falta de la materia prima, la cual puede obtenerse en China, Jamaica, el Brasil y otros países tropicales. La tintorería “Eagle,” de Providencia, ha comenzado á interesarse en la importación del ramio, y bajo su dirección se halla el trabajo de teñirlo y emplearlo en diversos artefactos. El Gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha destinado recientemente 250,000 pesos al desarrollo del cultivo y uso del ramio, y la exposición de Mr. TOPPAN va á ser trasladada en breve al Departamento de Agricultura de Wáshington, para instrucción del público. Pronto espera Mr. TOPPAN presentar ejemplares de la planta sembrada en macetas. Su invención promete suministrar al público una nueva materia textil de adopción universal, menos cara que cualquiera otra y de duración sin igual.”

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## EL RIEGO Y EL CULTIVO DE LA CAÑA DE AZÚCAR.

Con este encabezamiento aparece en “El Economista” de Lima el interesante artículo que á continuación se reproduce:

\* “La importancia del riego en lo que se relaciona con los intereses de los hacendados ó agricultores de caña de azúcar, nunca puede exa-

gerarse, y según las indicaciones, comienza ya á dársele todo el estudio que requiere. Los dueños de haciendas de caña en los países hispano-americanos, para quienes el buen éxito de la cosecha es de vital interés, pues que de él depende no sólo su comodidad, sino quizá su subsistencia, deberían dar á este asunto del riego toda la importancia que se merece. Mientras más se estudien y mejor se comprendan los enormes beneficios que derivan del riego científico, más se apresurarán á aprovecharse de lo que les ofrece la experiencia de los agricultores del Oeste de este país, y de las ventajas que se derivan del uso de la maquinaria americana y otros mecanismos para la irrigación, que son los mejores de su clase que hay en el mundo entero.

“Este asunto, que, como se sabe, es de la mayor importancia, se discutió seria y concienzudamente en una convención que tuvo efecto hace poco, de la Asociación de Hacendados de Caña del estado de Louisiana, discusión que por su índole fué del mayor interés. Uno de los presentes, miembro por el estado de Colorado, dió un brillante ejemplo de lo que se obtiene con el riego, demostrando que á eso se debía en primer lugar la maravillosa prosperidad del estado de referencia. Por medio del riego han llegado á ser sumamente fértiles inmensos terrenos que antes eran totalmente estériles, teniéndose hoy la seguridad de que, bueno ó malo el tiempo, las cosechas son buenas y seguras. Dijo que con la irrigación sistemática era seguro que los agricultores de caña de la Louisiana tendrían aseguradas también buenas cosechas todos los años. Esto lo demuestran las estadísticas del estado de Colorado, donde hace veinte años jamás se creyó que se pudiera cultivar la tierra, pero merced á este riego científico, los productos agrícolas de dicho estado han excedido en mucho á los de sus minas. La lectura de los trabajos de la convención de que hablamos, nos inclina á creer que todos los miembros que á ella asistieron, se separaron con la firme creencia de que muy pronto se comenzará á poner en práctica el riego científico en la Louisiana.”

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## PURIFICACIÓN DE LAS AGUAS.

Según refiere “La Semana Mercantil,” de México, en su número del 7 de mayo próximo pasado, M. HENRI BERGÉ, profesor de la Universidad de Bruselas, ha propuesto un sencillísimo procedimiento para la purificación y esterilización de las aguas, que consiste en el empleo de un compuesto gaseoso poco conocido, el “bióxido de cloro,”  $\text{ClO}_2$ . Este compuesto gaseoso es soluble en el agua; se descompone por la acción de la luz, por la del calor y por el contacto con las materias orgánicas. Es un oxidante de energía grandísima, superior á la del ozono. Su acción es tal, que bastan tres décimas de milígramo de este compuesto para esterilizar un litro de agua.

Su preparación es muy sencilla: consiste en descomponer el clorato de potasio por el ácido sulfúrico de 66° Reaumur á la temperatura ordinaria. Esta reacción química no es peligrosa.

Si se supone una proporción de dos gramos para cada metro cúbico de agua, el costo total no excederá de un décimo de céntimo por metro cúbico.

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## EL ALUMINIO.

Hoy se designa el aluminio con el nombre de metal del electricista. Fué descubierto en Alemania por WOHLER hace setenta y dos años. Hasta hace diez años el aluminio era tan raro que se le contaba entre los metales preciosos; pero luego comenzó á emplearse para su preparación el procedimiento eléctrico, y en la actualidad el aluminio es más barato que todos los otros metales, con excepción del hierro, el plomo y el cinc.

El método que se emplea para la fabricación es muy sencillo é interesante. En el procedimiento se usan dos metales, criolita y bauxita. El primero de éstos se encuentra únicamente en Groenlandia y es de color verdoso. Es una substancia cristalina, que se funde con facilidad. La bauxita debe su nombre á la ciudad de Baux en Francia, cerca de la cual se han encontrado grandes depósitos de este mineral. Es una substancia amarillenta que se compone casi en su totalidad de óxido de aluminio.

El procedimiento para preparar el aluminio es como sigue: se derrite primero la criolita en un tanque de hierro. Luego se mezcla con ese metal en fundición la bauxita, después de haberla limpiado y pulverizado. Á cada extremidad del tanque se coloca un electrodo en la forma de una plancha gruesa de carbono y se hace pasar entre ambos una fuerte corriente eléctrica. En pocos minutos el aluminio comienza á depositarse en el fondo del tanque.

El aluminio está tomando el lugar del bronce y del cobre en muchas industrias y principalmente como conductor de la electricidad.

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## NUEVO USO DE LA ELECTRICIDAD.

El calor producido por la electricidad se emplea en los Estados Unidos para muchos fines. No tiene rival para templar muelles de relojes. En una de las principales fábricas de carros de los Estados Unidos se hace uso de la electricidad para soldar las llantas. Otro tanto se practica en la fábrica que produce el mayor número de cubos y baldes de cedro. Los aros de metal empleados en la manufactura de aquéllos son hechos y soldados por medio de un procedimiento

eléctrico. También en la fabricación de bicicletas se ha adoptado un procedimiento análogo, y se le ha aplicado con buen éxito á la manufactura de toda clase de proyectiles y para dar el debido temple á las planchas de blindaje para los buques de batalla.

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## UTILIZACIÓN DE LA PIEL DEL CONEJO.

La razón principal por qué se ha venido criando hasta ahora el conejo es por el sabor exquisito de su carne. Seguramente han habido pocos criadores de este animal que hayan pensado en sacar partido de la piel, que según experimentos hechos por M. VON WERSCH, resulta tan dura como la suela de zapato. Tiene gran semejanza con la piel del becerro, y se cree resulte en la práctica tan duradera como ésta.

La fabricación de cuero de la piel del conejo es, no solamente fácil, sino poco costosa, razones éstas por las cuales convendría á los criadores de conejo dedicarse á su cría en grande escala.

Si bien la piel resulta útil, no lo es menos su pelo. El conejo de Angora, por ejemplo, cuyo pelo es de mayor longitud que el de las demás especies, rinde una cantidad extraordinaria de pelo en un período de cuatro años. En la industria se emplea algunas veces solo, y otras mezclado con hilos de cachemira ó de vicuña. Se calcula que un buen conejo adulto puede rendir de 250 á 350 gramos de pelo al año. Este resultado se obtiene solamente cuando se le prodigan grandes cuidados en su alimentación y cría.

La cría del conejo debe hacerse sujetándose á principios de buena economía, procurando que su alimentación sea lo menos costosa posible.

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## LANA DE ANIMALES MUERTOS.

Una institución económica de Sajonia ha formado una sociedad por acciones, para la producción de lana de animales muertos, que hasta ahora se había venido obteniendo, casi exclusivamente, del sur de Francia y del norte de Italia. El Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Glauchau dice que la lana peladiza se produce en Alemania en cantidades limitadas, y que los industriales se ven obligados á buscar este artículo en los otros dos países mencionados. Si la compañía que se ha organizado tiene buen éxito en sus negocios, es posible que se formen otras, y, en consecuencia, aumentarán el consumo y los precios de las pieles de carnero de los países del Plata. El procedimiento que se va á emplear por la nueva compañía de Alemania para obtener la lana en referencia, y el uso comercial á que se le va á dedicar, aun no son conocidos del público.



## COMERCIO DE MADAGASCAR.

En las hojas sueltas de los informes consulares, publicadas de antemano con fecha 11 de junio de este año, se dice que la goma elástica es el artículo de exportación más importante de Madagascar, y que se ha enviado al exterior una cantidad valorada en \$427,138, de los cuales \$202,145 fueron á Francia y \$224,993 á otros países. En 1896 la importación de goma elástica en Francia tuvo un valor de \$31,626 solamente. La de rafia se ha elevado de \$59,880 á \$161,878; la de cera de \$7,000 á \$75,824, y la de pieles de \$7,749 á \$87,091. Finalmente, la importación de oro en barras que no tuvo importancia alguna en 1896, representó en 1899 un valor de \$65,855, y la de oro en polvo se elevó de \$17,322 á \$139,545.

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NOTAS MISCELÁNEAS.

Al hablar de la producción de hierro del mundo, “La Revista Comercial é Industrial de Minas,” de Santiago de Chile, da los siguientes datos, tomados del “Engineering and Mining Journal” correspondiente al 1° de febrero de 1900. En 1898 los Estados Unidos produjeron 11,962,317 toneladas métricas, y en 1889 13,838,634 toneladas métricas. En 1898 la Gran Bretaña produjo 8,769,249 toneladas, y en 1899 su producción fué de 9,399,169 toneladas métricas. Alemania produjo en el mismo año 7,402,717 toneladas métricas, y en 1899 la producción fué de 8,029,306 toneladas métricas.

El periódico “El Azúcar,” que se publica en la Habana, trae en su número correspondiente al mes de abril próximo pasado, un artículo sobre el bagazo de la caña, que contiene indicaciones muy útiles, y en el cual se dice, entre otras cosas, que “en los grandes centrales modernos no solamente suple el bagazo todas las necesidades de combustible, pero aun deja al fin de cada zafra un sobrante utilizable como abono.”

El “Agricultor Mexicano,” en su edición de mayo de este año, publica un interesante artículo sobre el cultivo de la higuera ó ricino, en el cual se lee lo siguiente:

“La higuera es una planta de grande importancia, considerándola no solamente como oleaginosa, por la cantidad de aceite que producen sus semillas y los muchos usos á que se destinan éstas, sino por servir sus hojas para la alimentación del *Bombyx cynthia* (de Fabricius), gusano de seda originario de Bengala, que vive sobre esta planta, criándose en domesticidad. La seda que produce esta especie, aunque

menos fina que la del gusano de la morera, *Bombyx mori*, tiene la ventaja sobre esta última de producirse con más facilidad y tener una duración tal, que los vestidos confeccionados con ella comunmente se ven pasar de padres á hijos. Por esta razón en la actualidad se trata de aclimatar este gusano en todas aquellas partes donde pueda cultivarse la higuera, y diariamente se hacen esfuerzos para propagar esta última en diversos países."

En su número correspondiente al 1º de abril de 1900, dice "El Hacendado Mexicano" que la estadística de la producción del hule ó goma elástica es difícil de hacer, pero que no baja de 50,000 toneladas al año, y agrega que la producción de este artículo no está todavía en relación con el consumo, que por sus múltiples aplicaciones industriales, aumenta siempre, de donde resulta que el precio de venta tiende constantemente á subir.

Asegura el periódico "Las Novedades," que en el partido de Ciudad Lerdo, México, se han descubierto magníficas vetas de mármol de varias clases y colores, pero que no están todavía en explotación. La República abunda en grandes vetas de esta especie, y de las zonas explotadas se exportan grandes cantidades de este producto. En el estado de Oaxaca hay también ricas vetas de mármol que pueden competir con las mejores del país.

Según "El Economista," de Lima, la exportación de café y cacao del Perú ha aumentado de una manera notable. Del primero de estos dos granos se exportaron en 1890 solamente 140,000 kilogramos, y en 1898 la cantidad exportada ascendió á 1,245,324 kilogramos. En cuanto al cacao la exportación fué en 1892 de 6,798 kilogramos, mientras que en 1898 subió á 618,073 kilogramos.

"El Nacional," diario de la capital de México, da la noticia de que en el estado de Sonora se han descubierto yacimientos de coque natural de calidad excelente. Dice que estos depósitos se encuentran en el valle carbonífero de Santa Clara, en los alrededores de la Barranca, pequeña población situada sobre la línea del ferrocarril de Sonora.

En el número 232 de "El Economista" de Lima, aparece un informe sobre las minas de hierro en el departamento de Piura, en el cual se asegura que en el mencionado departamento, extendiéndose desde el río de Piura hasta el Quirós, en las Pampas y las faldas de los cerros de Chulutanás, y desde allí, caminando hacia el norte, entre los ríos Quirós y Macará, hasta el Ecuador, existen inagotables cantidades de mineral de hierro, que rinden desde 40 hasta 90 por ciento, y en algunas localidades se encuentra el metal casi en su estado puro y listo para convertirse en barras.

Dice “La Producción Nacional” de Buenos Aires que ninguna industria ha llegado á alcanzar en nuestros tiempos mayor incremento que la de algodón. Se calcula que en 1898 se han cosechado y elaborado en el mundo entero 14,000,000 de pacas de este textil, que equivalen á 2,000,000,000 de kilogramos, mientras que en 1880 el total de algodón beneficiado fué de 6,200,000 pacas, lo que representa un aumento de 85 por ciento en menos de veinte años. El gran país productor de algodón es la América del Norte, que da anualmente 7,000,000 de pacas; las Indias Orientales cosechan 2,500,000; el Egipto, la América del Sur y el Asia Menor producen el resto. Inglaterra en 1880 transformaba en tejidos y otros artículos 3,000,000 de pacas; hoy transforma una quinta parte más. El resto de la Europa continental ha aumentado su producción de 1,772,000 á 4,069,000. El incremento de esta misma producción ha sido de 140 por ciento en los Estados Unidos durante veinte años. Las Indias Orientales serán pronto los más terribles competidores de los países manufactureros. En 1880 beneficiaron 87,000 pacas, y en 1898 el consumo de sus fábricas fué de 891,000, lo que arroja un aumento de 10.15 por ciento.

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## REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

### MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE.

Á continuación se publican algunos párrafos del mensaje del Presidente ROCA, al abrir las sesiones del Congreso argentino en mayo de 1900:

“Señores SENADORES Y DIPUTADOS:

“Cumpló con el deber constitucional de abrir el período de vuestras sesiones ordinarias, y daros cuenta del estado general de la nación.

“Las buenas relaciones que la República ha mantenido siempre con las demás naciones se han conservado sin alteración alguna, y las antiguas cuestiones que pudieron ser causa de perturbación han desaparecido definitivamente, ó se encuentran encaminadas á una solución fácil y tranquila.

“La demarcación de los límites internacionales que fué objeto de constantes preocupaciones, no ha ofrecido mayores dificultades. En cumplimiento de acuerdos y tratados, la línea fronteriza con Chile se sigue determinando por la colocación de hitos divisorios en la parte convenida, y en la parte en que se produjo la divergencia, se espera la solución del Gobierno de Su Majestad británica, sin que inconveniente alguno se haya presentado, habiendo exigido solamente el viaje del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores incidentes de carácter interno, que fueron por éste fácil y acertadamente solucionados.

“Me es grato manifestar, con este motivo, que á medida que nos hemos ido aproximando al desenlace de este laborioso y complicado

asunto, hemos podido apreciar mejor la buena voluntad con que el Gobierno de Chile ha propendido á allanar dificultades en el cumplimiento de los tratados internacionales.

“Con Bolivia la línea divisoria ha sido objeto de acuerdos y estudios previos de relevamientos del terreno, que pueden decirse definitivamente concluídos, y que servirán para efectuar sin dificultad la demarcación, tanto más cuanto que los gobiernos se han encontrado siempre animados de sentimientos elevados á su respecto.

“Después del fallo arbitral que concluyó las cuestiones de fronteras con el Brasil, sólo quedaba el trazado de la línea fijada y la demarcación en la parte que nunca fué objeto de discusión. Para ello, se celebró el acuerdo que ha merecido la aprobación de V. H., y que, una vez ratificado, deberá ser cumplido en todas sus partes sin inconveniente.

“Concluidos todos los trabajos antes mencionados, habrán quedado determinados los límites de la República de una manera incommovible, pudiendo decirse desde ya que todo conflicto posible ha desaparecido.

“Pero si todas estas soluciones facilitan el ejercicio de la soberanía territorial en sus relaciones con los estados limítrofes, la actuación de la República en la comunidad internacional reclama vinculaciones estrechas y de orden diverso, que sólo pueden asegurarse por el respeto de todos los derechos y por las manifestaciones que responden á sentimientos amistosos.

“En este sentido y con la íntima persuasión de que la conservación de la paz debe ser el objetivo principal de la política exterior de la República, he celebrado con varias naciones los tratados de arbitraje que han sido sometidos á la deliberación de V. H., y usando de las autorizaciones legales, he formulado un acuerdo comercial con los Estados Unidos de Norte América, estudiándose también acuerdos de esta misma naturaleza con otros estados.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Un Congreso americano debe reunirse en breve por iniciativa del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de Norte América, con los mismos objetos que tuvo el realizado en 1889. Habiendo sido invitado especialmente á concurrir, sin determinarse por ahora la época y el lugar de la reunión, he aceptado la invitación, no solo como un acto de cortesía, sino porque abrigo la convicción de que la realización de tal Congreso puede ser fecunda para las relaciones de los Estados americanos que viven distanciados, no obstante que intereses y aspiraciones comunes les exigen vinculaciones más estrechas.

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“La Patagonia, no ha mucho absolutamente desierta, se puebla rápidamente; sus campos se cubren de ganados, y por toda su extensa costa se notan síntomas halagüeños de vida y movimiento. El Chubut, desde marzo, está unido por el telégrafo al resto de la República; la línea se sigue construyendo en dirección al Puerto de Camarones, y

espero que en todo el presente año podremos extenderlo hasta el extremo sur de la República, si el Honorable Congreso vota los fondos necesarios para ello. Considero esta obra de grandísima importancia para el país, bajo todo punto de vista.

\* \* \* \* \*

“La salud pública ha estado amenazada por haberse introducido la peste de Oriente en la ciudad del Rosario. No era permitido vacilar ante el peligro de una propagación del flagelo, y fueron adoptadas las medidas más severas, á fin de aislarlo y combatirlo hasta obtener su completa extinción. La franqueza de las declaraciones oficiales á ese respecto y la energía de los procedimientos encontraron adversarios que argumentaban á nombre de la ciencia ó de los intereses mercantiles inmediatamente afectados. Sería caprichoso suponer, en este momento en que la epidemia puede darse por extinguida, que el rigor de aquellas medidas ha sido ajeno á resultados tan satisfactorios, y sería más que temerario, en circunstancias semejantes, esperar todo de la bondad de nuestro clima y de nuestro suelo.

“Ese peligro ya conjurado, así como otra epidemia más mortífera, originada por una temperatura excepcional y un estado especial de la atmósfera que pasó rápidamente, han hecho sentir la necesidad de una ley federal de salubridad, por la cual sean bien determinadas y deslindadas las atribuciones que corresponden á las diversas autoridades nacionales, provinciales y municipales, que obran simultáneamente en esos casos. Debe establecerse que en presencia de epidemias exóticas, la autoridad nacional únicamente puede imponer cordones sanitarios, fijar cuarentenas y adoptar cualquier medida que afecte el comercio extranjero ó el tráfico en el interior.

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“El producto de las rentas del año es satisfactorio. La recaudación general asciende á \$45,676,188.82, oro, y \$61,419,990.16, papel. El exceso sobre la recaudación de 1898 es de \$11,797,923.06, oro, y \$11,675,776.22, curso legal, ó sea un total de \$38,489,238, curso legal. Aun cuando se deduzca de esta cifra lo recaudado por impuestos extraordinarios creados en agosto de 1898, resulta siempre un progreso muy notable en la recaudación de las rentas, que ha superado á todos los cálculos.

“La renta ordinaria de importación ha producido \$28,388,261.84, oro, excediendo el cálculo de recursos en \$1,978,261.84, y superando á la recaudación de 1898 en \$1,596,590.95.

“Esta renta, durante el primer trimestre de 1900, ha dado \$8,767,-163.37, oro, que señala un progreso sobre la de 1899 representado por \$1,259,285.69, oro.

“Los derechos de exportación, almacenaje, faros, puertos y guinches han superado al cálculo de recursos en más de \$700,000 pesos, oro.

“La recaudación de los impuestos internos va en progresión, siem-

pre creciente, debido, principalmente, á los adelantos en los medios de control y á una percepción más ordenada y fiel. La recaudación excede al cálculo de recursos en \$6,293,409.91 de curso legal y \$31,832.20, oro.

“El cálculo de 20,000,000 para los alcoholes no reposó sobre sólidas bases, como el Poder Ejecutivo lo hizo notar oportunamente. Si consultamos los índices de consumo de los diversos países, es quizás exagerado para uno, como el nuestro, en que el alcoholismo es muy reducido, el consumo de cuatro litros de alcohol puro por habitante, y, por consiguiente, el consumo anual no puede pasar de 17,000,000.

“La percepción del año pasado alcanza á \$13,625,599.22, y para apreciarla deben tenerse en cuenta las existencias de alcohol que había en el mercado, la perturbación en el consumo, producida por resistencias y prédicas contra el nuevo sistema, y el hecho de superar en \$6,081,829.75 á la recaudación de 1898.

“Ahora el consumo se normaliza. La renta del primer trimestre del año corriente alcanza á \$4,095,224.99, que demuestra que este año dará los \$16,000,000 calculados. Creo que debe mantenerse un sistema adoptado por las naciones más adelantadas, y que ha probado su eficacia bajo el punto de vista rentístico é higiénico en todos los países en que se ha implantado.

“El carácter de permanencia relativa que habeis dado á las leyes tributarias, á iniciativa del Poder Ejecutivo, producirá, en mi concepto, excelentes resultados financieros, económicos y políticos; dará mayor autoridad á las leyes; hará cesar las alarmas que su continua movilidad producía, y concurrirá al perfeccionamiento de esa legislación por el estudio profundo, acompañado de las enseñanzas de la experiencia, que tendrá que proceder en adelante á cualquier reforma parcial que se intente.

“La ley de presupuesto para 1899 autoriza gastos por \$101,292,399.12, curso legal, y \$26,453,972.86, oro. Las imputaciones hechas por la Contaduría nacional montan á \$96,068,365.37, curso legal, y \$21,481,378.02, oro. Entre lo autorizado y lo gastado resulta, pues, un sobrante de \$5,134,033.75, curso legal y \$4,972,594.84, oro, ó sea un total de \$16,435,385.65, curso legal.

“Con respecto á gastos autorizados por leyes especiales, suben á \$9,310,072.73, oro, y \$8,837,355.49, papel. Estas abultadas cifras no os llamarán la atención, si teneis en cuenta que la primera comprende: \$4,400,000, oro, en títulos de 4 por ciento entregados por saldo de la rescisión de la garantía al ferrocarril Trasandino; \$3,928,104.35, oro, imputados á las leyes reservadas por armamentos adquiridos; \$453,260, oro, pagos que habeis ordenado de una antigua cuenta del Correo por derechos de tránsito de correspondencia; \$160,584.07 para pago de cuentas del año 1898 de la Intendencia de Marina. Estas cuatro partidas que importan \$8,941,948.42, oro, no representan gastos del ejercicio,

sino deudas atrasadas que he pagado. El resto ha sido invertido: \$230,168.09 en adelantos para la compra de las dragas para la canalización de Martín García, saldo de conservación del Canal Norte y otros pequeños gastos.

“En cuanto á la segunda cifra en pesos papel, los principales factores que la componen son: \$1,480,000 por diferencias en el cambio de letras de Tesorería que tomaron las compañías de seguros por títulos del empréstito popular 80 por ciento; \$1,200,000 en gastos para la extinción de la langosta; \$673,075 en ensanche de las obras de salubridad y caños de tormenta; \$600,000 en cuentas atrasadas de la Intendencia de Marina; \$500,000 á la Sociedad de Beneficencia de la Capital, y el resto comprende gastos por expropiaciones diversas, intervenciones en las provincias, perjuicios por terremotos é inundaciones, defensas contra enfermedades reinantes, mensuras, construcciones de telégrafos y ferrocarriles, y otros pequeños gastos que sería prolijo detallar.

“Descartadas las inversiones, tanto en oro como en papel, por deudas atrasadas, resulta un sobrante de consideración que con el excedente que han producido las rentas, ha permitido desahogar el Tesoro.

“Los cambios internacionales han estado siempre á favor del país. Las letras compradas en el año por el Ministerio de Hacienda han dejado una utilidad, por diferencias de cambios, de \$259,146.69, oro.

“He introducido hasta ahora en el presupuesto vigente economías, suspendiendo gastos y sueldos por valor de \$3,500,000, y tengo el propósito de continuar suprimiendo todo gasto que crea innecesario.

“Existía de tiempo atrás un doble servicio de vigilancia marítima ejercido por los resguardos de las aduanas y las subprefecturas. Los he refundido en una sola administración, con unidad de acción, y he puesto á su frente un jefe dotado de la competencia y energía necesarias para manejar una repartición tan vasta. Esta refundición, que representa para el Tesoro una economía de más de \$700,000 para el presupuesto de 1899, se ha realizado sin tropiezos, y tengo la satisfacción de anunciaros que ya ha dado pruebas de su eficacia, habiendo mejorado notablemente los servicios.

“He dado, de la misma manera, nueva organización á los servicios de la Administración de Rentas, para suprimir trámites é intermediarios inútiles. Esta medida concentra los servicios del Departamento de Hacienda, que tiene ahora un jefe único al frente de las grandes oficinas recaudadoras, con ventaja para la rapidez en el despacho de los asuntos, para la vigilancia y control y para mayor responsabilidad de los empleados.

“La Tesorería ha hecho pagos efectivos durante el año por un total de \$213,687,113.95 curso legal y \$34,201,146.34, oro sellado.

“Las remesas hechas á nuestra legación en Londres, para atender á

los servicios de la deuda y gastos, han alcanzado en el año á la suma de \$28,864,600, oro sellado.

“De las 300,000 acciones del Banco Nacional el Gobierno ha retirado ya 287,806, quedando un saldo de 2,194, que aun no se ha presentado al pago.

“La circulación general de la moneda fiduciaria, comprendida la emisión menor, ascendía el 31 de diciembre del pasado á \$295,149,731.85.

“De los \$5,200,000, moneda de níquel, mandados á acuñar, están en circulación \$3,823,468.75, y el resto se encuentra en la Caja de Conversión, á disposición del público.

“La Casa de Moneda se ocupa actualmente de la impresión de los nuevos billetes que deben reemplazar á los que circulan, y espero que en breve tiempo se procederá al canje.

“El Banco de la Nación sigue en su marcha progresiva, prestando importantes servicios al país. El aumento constante de los depósitos, que pasan de 90,000,000, muestra la confianza que inspira. El movimiento general de los capitales acusa un aumento de \$154,000,000 papel y 45,000,000, oro, sobre el año de 1898, dato que evidencial a mayor actividad de sus operaciones. Ha emprendido operaciones de cambios internacionales, para lo que dispone de más de \$5,000,000, oro, de los que \$3,000,000 pertenecen al fondo de conversión. He cuidado y cuidaré de que el Banco goce de la más completa independencia en su administración. No ha llegado el momento de darle su forma definitiva. Hemos dado un gran paso hacia la solución final con la reforma monetaria, pero es necesario que esa institución vaya fortificándose con los elementos que la confianza pública le dispensa, que la estabilidad de nuestra moneda se consolide y que se reunan capitales en el país para abordar esa cuestión.

“La deuda externa de la nación es actualmente de \$386,004,118.87, oro, y la deuda interna consolidada es de \$105,951,300, curso legal, y \$6,375,000, oro.

“Del monto total de la deuda deben deducirse: \$46,120,003, oro, á que ascienden los títulos emitidos para el arreglo de las deudas de las provincias de Buenos Aires, Santa Fe y Entre Ríos, y cuyo servicio está ó estará á cargo de estas provincias; \$31,980,135, oro, de títulos de propiedad de la nación, depositados en Londres; \$7,699,998 entregados para arreglos del Banco Nacional con los sindicatos representados por L. COHEN & SON y el Disconto Gesellschaft de Berlín, deuda que está servida por dicho banco; \$7,200,000, curso legal, en títulos de la deuda consolidada interna, que están á disposición de la Tesorería de la nación.

“La deuda, pues, que pesa directamente sobre la nación sube la externa á \$300,203,982 oro y la interna á \$6,375,000 oro y \$98,929,000 curso legal.

“Desde el 12 de octubre de 1898 hasta el 15 de abril pasado, la



deuda exigible de anteriores ejercicios ha sido cancelada en las siguientes cantidades: \$10,031,226.33, oro sellado, y \$22,719,065.59, curso legal. Esta deuda queda hoy reducida á \$914,768.75, oro, y \$2,401,177.24, curso legal.

“La circulación actual de las letras de Tesorería es de \$14,214,088, oro, y \$1,823,938, curso legal, estando comprendidas en la primera cantidad letras por \$4,536,000, oro, entregadas en caución de créditos abiertos.

“El saldo de los armamentos adquiridos asciende á \$4,500,000, más ó menos, de los que se pagarán, según los contratos, \$3,000,000, oro, en letras á uno, dos y tres años, letras que aun no ha llegado el caso de otorgar, y el resto á medida de las entregas.

“No queda otra obligación digna de mención que la procedente del rescate que se hizo de los títulos del puerto de la Capital, obligación condicional y que depende del derecho de opción de los prestamistas, y que en cualquier caso podrá renovarse á su vencimiento en primero de julio de 1901 en condiciones favorables por la excelencia de la garantía de que goza.

“El Ministerio de Hacienda tiene en estos momentos á su disposición en Europa \$12,500,000 oro sellado.

“Independientemente de los \$31,980,135, oro sellado, en títulos de la deuda pública, que tenemos en Londres, el Tesoro dispone de \$9,591,154.23, curso legal, y \$226,395.14, oro sellado, en letras procedentes de la venta de tierras públicas, y \$7,200,000, curso legal, en títulos de la deuda interna, que es el título más apreciado por su próxima amortización total.

“El año que ha concluído ha sido de liquidación.

“Respondiendo á las aspiraciones del país, á la voluntad del Congreso y al propósito que os anuncié al recibirme del mando, tendente á liquidar todas las deudas que nos ha legado el pasado, tanto nacionales como provinciales, con el fin de levantar á costa de cualquier sacrificio el crédito de la nación, me complazco en anunciaros que esa liquidación ha terminado.

“Durante el año han quedado definitivamente concluídos los arreglos de las deudas externas de las provincias de Córdoba, Santa Fe, Entre Ríos, Corrientes, Tucumán, San Luis, San Juan y Catamarca.

“La nación, por su parte, ha puesto fin á reclamos sobre garantías de ferrocarriles, y ha prestado su ayuda á la provincia de Santa Fe para arreglar las obligaciones que contrajo para la construcción de sus ferrocarriles.

“Si una provincia no ha efectuado aun el canje de sus títulos, sus acreedores reciben puntualmente de la nación sus intereses. No hay deudas que no hayan sido consolidadas, pagadas ó arregladas. Se ha dado satisfacción á todos los acreedores. Todo está liquidado. La ayuda prestada por la nación á las provincias para que hicieran arre-

glos equitativos con sus acreedores y se libertasen de tan pesadas cargas, por las que tenían especialmente empeñadas casi todas sus rentas, ha importado \$85,999,499.82, oro, en títulos nacionales de 4 por ciento de la ley No. 3378.

“Las provincias libertadas de compromisos abrumadores, podrán entregarse sin cuidado al desarrollo de su producción.

“Adquiridos por la nación los títulos de los bancos garantidos, he mandado quemarlos por valor de \$139,260,336.70, oro, quedando así apartados de las cuentas valores nominales que no tienen razón de ser.

“Las cifras expuestas al hablar de la situación del Tesoro muestran que ya no existe propiamente deuda exigible. La deuda atrasada que perturbaba las fianzas, ha quedado extinguida. Las letras de Tesorería pendientes serán pagadas, á medida que venzan, con los fondos acumulados.

“Á pesar de las dificultades financieras, no trepidé en rescatar en mayo del año pasado las obligaciones del puerto de la Capital, para evitar la venta en condiciones ruinosas de \$6,000,000, oro, de nuestros mejores títulos de deuda externa, que lanzados en los mercados europeos hubieran deprimido nuestros valores y nuestro crédito.

“Durante el año se han atendido con escrúpulo y exactitud los servicios de la deuda pública, se han abonado puntualmente el último día de cada mes los sueldos de la administración, se han pagado todos los gastos y obligaciones del ejercicio corriente, y las enormes sumas que he mencionado de deuda exigible de anteriores ejercicios.

“Se han conseguido estos resultados mediante esfuerzos diarios de economía, de orden y de previsión, y mediante una operación de Tesorería realizada recientemente por 2,000,000 de libras esterlinas, que permite transformar las obligaciones apremiantes de las letras de Tesorería por una obligación á largos y cómodos plazos, operación hecha en condiciones convenientes.

“La Hacienda Pública queda desahogada. Hemos liquidado, pues, todo el pasado y apartado del camino de las finanzas las asperezas, las dificultades extremas y las angustias de vivir al día é ignorar la suerte de mañana.

“El acto más saliente y trascendental en el sentido de liquidar el pasado y fijar nuevos rumbos á la marcha económica de la nación ha sido, indudablemente, la ley monetaria de 4 de noviembre pasado. Su ejecución ha demostrado á la evidencia su eficacia y ha dado satisfacción á todas las impacencias.

“Desde el último día de agosto último, en que se presentó el proyecto, la cotización del oro ha sufrido variaciones insignificantes, y durante los dos últimos meses el precio del oro ha permanecido inmóvil en el tipo fijado por la ley.

“La Caja de Conversión tenía ayer la suma de \$5,500,000, oro, que el público le había llevado en cambio de papel. Estos efectos se han

producido á pesar de la natural desconfianza que debe inspirar una reforma recién intentada en nuestro sistema monetario, á pesar de las hostilidades de que ha sido objeto, á pesar de la guerra del África del Sur, que ha conmovido todos los mercados monetarios, y á pesar, en fin, de las dificultades que nos han traído las enfermedades reinantes.

“Todo autoriza á creer que el tipo fijado se sostendrá, y si aun sufre alternativas, no pasará mucho tiempo sin adquirir la solidez necesaria. Las fuerzas del país, el aumento de la producción, el desarrollo del comercio, el fondo de conversión y la voluntad decidida de los poderes públicos, de concurrir por todos sus medios al mejoramiento de la situación económica, contribuirán á mantener inalterable aquel tipo.

“Todos reconocen que el efecto inmediato de la ley fué evitar una enorme pérdida á la agricultura y á la ganadería, por su aparición oportuna, en momentos en que se iniciaba una gran cosecha, que representa más de \$200,000,000, oro. Calcúlense los inmensos perjuicios que el descenso del metálico, producido por tanto oro y acrecentado por la especulación, hubiera ocasionado al país. La acción de la ley sobre el pasado ha tenido por efecto liquidar, desde el primer momento de su promulgación, la situación monetaria. El tipo fijado, al que todos han quedado sujetos, para el reembolso, reduce la circulación de nuestra moneda á \$126,197,235, oro sellado. La consolidación que esa ley ha producido del estado de cosas creado por los fenómenos monetarios, y la fijación definitiva del tipo según el valor real del papel inconvertible, se han operado sin perturbaciones, sin pérdidas reales y sin que intereses privados puedan decirse lesionados.

“La amortización de más de \$160,000,000 de la circulación, realizada en beneficio del país, en virtud de esa ley, es de muy escasa importancia, ante las inmensas ventajas de dar á los contratos una base cierta; al comercio, á las industrias y á las empresas una medida fija de los valores, y á todas las relaciones económicas la seguridad que reclama su desenvolvimiento. Una moneda estable es un instrumento poderoso de vida, de expansión y de progreso. Es la base más firme de las transacciones; aviva las iniciativas, fomenta las empresas é infunde en todas las relaciones la confianza.

“Nosotros que hemos vivido tantos años bajo el régimen del papel moneda, no nos damos exacta cuenta de la gran conquista que hemos alcanzado.

“El fondo destinado á la conversión de la moneda pasa ya de \$3,200,000 oro, que en su mayor parte el Banco de la Nación ha remitido en cambios á Europa. Los resultados hasta ahora obtenidos no deben alucinarnos por muy satisfactorios que sean. La reforma monetaria impone á los poderes públicos grandes deberes. Ella no se ha producido como un acto aislado. Está ligada, como tuve la honra de manifestaros al abrir vuestras sesiones el año pasado, á un plan de finanzas, de administración y de gobierno. ‘Este plan,, os dije

entonces, ‘nos obliga á reorganizar y moralizar los resortes de la administración, á introducir en el presupuesto las economías posibles, evitar los gastos exagerados, reducir ó suprimir ciertos gravámenes y restablecer, en fin, el equilibrio de la hacienda pública, sin el cual sería imposible llegar al régimen de la conversión.’

“Debemos, pues, continuar con firmeza la tarea emprendida y no desmayar ante los esfuerzos extraordinarios de perseverancia, orden y economía que demanda la ejecución de ese plan.

“Es preciso tener en cuenta que la deuda consolidada de la nación ha crecido muy rápidamente; que el año próximo tendremos que reanudar el servicio de amortización por más de setecientas mil libras esterlinas, que no podemos recargar los impuestos, ya muy pesados, y debemos, por el contrario, suprimir los que gravan especialmente nuestros productos, y que necesitamos, finalmente, prepararnos desde ahora á satisfacer todas las deudas que no están representadas por fondos consolidados de la nación.

“Estoy convencido de que si con vuestra poderosa ayuda puedo perseverar en esos sanos propósitos y ajustarnos á esa conducta que la prudencia aconseja y los más grandes intereses del país reclaman, conseguiremos dentro de dos años unificar nuestra deuda externa, reducir el servicio de intereses considerablemente y colocar con ventaja los títulos que tenemos en Europa.

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“Sancionado el proyecto de ley que tuve el honor de remitiros, relativo á estudios industriales y agrícolas en el extranjero, se le ha dado ya cumplimiento, enviando los veinte primeros jóvenes á las escuelas de ese género de los Estados Unidos de Norte América y del Dominio del Canadá, y cábeme la satisfacción de creer que ellas han de devolvernos en oportunidad hombres preparados para la clase de trabajos que el país reclama y que contribuyan á fomentar prácticamente la afición por este género de ocupaciones tan provechosas y tan útiles en el presente y en el porvenir.

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“La ganadería, que representa todavía nuestra principal industria, se perfecciona constante y notablemente en reproductores. Por desgracia una enfermedad desarrollada en forma de epizootica, ha entorpecido recientemente nuestro comercio de animales en pie. Los esfuerzos del Gobierno nacional y de las provincias amenazadas tienden á conseguir su extinción, favorecida por la rápida evolución de la enfermedad de un carácter tan benigno, que sin las medidas rigurosas de algunos gobiernos europeos, podrían considerarse insignificantes los perjuicios causados. La aparición de esta epizootia y su rápida propagación han hecho sentir la falta de una ley de policía sanitaria de los ganados, ley que podría basarse sobre alguno de los proyectos enviados por el Poder Ejecutivo al Congreso en los últimos años. La autoridad

nacional encuentra dificultades para obrar rápida y eficazmente en esos casos, faltándole la norma de un criterio legal que determine sus atribuciones, sin menoscabo de las que corresponden á las autoridades provinciales.

“No es menos necesario el establecimiento de un lazareto cuarentenario y laboratorio bacteriológico anexo, con el objeto de prevenir la importación de epizootias exóticas, cuya introducción es difícil, si no imposible, evitar por los medios rudimentarios empleados actualmente.

“Una comisión científica, constituida por el Ministerio de Agricultura, ha comprobado la eficacia de una vacuna preventiva contra la tristeza ó malaria bovina, descubrimiento que se debe al distinguido Profesor LIGNIÉRES. Ese resultado que puede ser seguido de otros descubrimientos importantes, justifica el auxilio prestado para sufragar los gastos del laboratorio.

“La última cosecha de cereales ha sido tan abundante que nos ha permitido figurar en tercera línea como país exportador en el mercado universal.

“El aumento de los cultivos es constante y las industrias derivadas de la agricultura se extienden sensiblemente. Sólo en trigo se han exportado el año último 1,700,000 toneladas, y en el primer trimestre de este año 695,000 toneladas.

“La propagación de nuevos cultivos por la distribución gratuita de semillas destinadas á ensayos, ha dado resultados favorables, si bien habría que adoptar un nuevo sistema para asegurarse de que aquella distribución se hace convenientemente y de que las semillas son utilizadas por personas competentes.

“La Oficina Meteorológica de Córdoba continúa acumulando observaciones que en época no lejana permitirán formar mapas agrológicos y tablas para la predicción del tiempo, de incalculables beneficios para nuestra agricultura.

“Se nota una tendencia pronunciada á explotar las fuentes de riqueza nacional por procedimientos menos empíricos. La acción oficial debe estimular esa tendencia. La difusión de la enseñanza, la implantación de medios racionales de cultivo y de los sistemas modernos de labranza, una educación más completa en el agricultor y la aplicación de los principios fundamentales de la ciencia agronómica, darán en el futuro proporciones extraordinarias, y aumentarán el valor de los diversos ramos de la producción nacional.

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“En el primer trimestre del corriente año se importaron mercaderías por valor de \$34,691,648, oro, suma que excede á la análoga del primer trimestre del año pasado en \$4,870,576, oro. En el primer trimestre del corriente año se exportaron productos nacionales por valor de \$52,681,112, oro, superando esta cifra á la análoga del año anterior en

\$5,148,219, oro. La importación y la exportación del primer trimestre del corriente año comparadas arrojan á favor del país un saldo de \$17,989,464, oro. La exportación de productos del país, que representa los esfuerzos del trabajo nacional, ha tenido en 1899 un aumento por valor de más de \$48,088,000, oro, sobre el de 1898, suma que acusa un gran progreso en nuestra producción. Preferente lugar ocupa en este comercio la exportación de substancias animales, que asciende á \$102,409,404, oro, notándose un aumento sobre el año anterior de \$30,000,000. Se observa que la exportación de carnes congeladas va tomando incremento, é igualmente la de la manteca, que iniciada en 1889 con 4,026 kilogramos, ha alcanzado el pasado año á 1,179,496 kilogramos. El ganado exportado en pie asciende en su valor á \$9,027,996, oro, á pesar de las dificultades de los transportes y del alto precio de los fletes. En cuanto á la exportación de productos de la agricultura, que, como lo dejo anotado, asciende á más de \$65,000,000, oro, señala para el trigo la cifra más alta que hemos alcanzado hasta ahora, 1,713,490 toneladas; para el maíz 1,116,276, para el lino 217,713, y para la harina, 59,464 toneladas.

“La inmigración, poderoso factor con que es necesario contar para la población y explotación de nuestro vasto territorio, permanece en los límites normales de su desarrollo, acusando siempre un aumento de no poca consideración, y si no alcanza las grandes proporciones á que legítimamente podemos aspirar, esto tiene su explicación en el estado de crisis por que hemos atravesado, en las condiciones de holgura y de mayor comodidad de que disfrutaban en Europa las clases obreras é industriales, y en otros motivos de carácter transitorio, que nada afectan las condiciones de país de inmigración que caracterizan al nuestro. Es un hecho digno de notarse el mejoramiento bien patente en la clase de inmigrantes que han entrado en estos últimos años, pues son todos ellos elementos útiles y hombres de valor, eficientes para el progreso nacional. Muy poco habremos hecho si no conseguimos hacer continua y favorable esta corriente de población verdaderamente industriosa y emprendedora que nos favorece, y ese secreto de atracción reside en los estímulos eficaces de la propiedad y en los beneficios de garantía de la ley.

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“Las líneas de los ferrocarriles de la República se han mantenido expeditas, salvo algunos días en que el tráfico sufrió entorpecimientos á causa de las inundaciones que se produjeron en las provincias de Santa Fe y Mendoza y el Territorio del Neuquen. La red ferroviaria se aumentó durante el año en 1,016.05 kilómetros, con los que hoy se tiene un total de 16,408.05 kilómetros entregados á la explotación.

“El ferrocarril Trasandino ha empezado con actividad los trabajos de prolongación de su línea de Vacas hasta la frontera chilena, donde

llegará al finalizar el año 1903, según lo expresan los contratos últimamente celebrados con motivo de la rescisión de la garantía que pesaba sobre la nación y que fué dispuesta por V. H. por ley No. 3760.

“Si, como espero, el Gobierno de Chile se preocupa de allanar las dificultades para que los trabajos allende los Andes se empiecen y sigan con actividad, pronto se habrá realizado la obra magna que tantos beneficios producirá á ambos países.

“No se ha descuidado el estudio de nuevas líneas férreas, y se lleva adelante el de Sauce á Orán, de Patquía á San Juan, de Guachipas á Cafayate y el del alambre carril de Chilecito á La Méjicana, á las que deben agregarse las del Ferrocarril á Bolivia, cuyos trabajos de gabinete se encuentran á su terminación. Es de desear que la construcción de las mencionadas líneas sea pronto una realidad, con lo que se habrían llenado necesidades sentidas.

“Los ferrocarriles del estado con la nueva organización que se les ha dado por ley No. 3896 han podido desenvolverse sin entorpecimiento alguno, llenando con sus propios recursos las necesidades de su tráfico, siempre crecientes.

“El tren rodante de estas líneas se ha aumentado con adquisiciones importantes que actualmente se llevan á cabo en Estados Unidos, y construcciones que se hacen en el país, con todo lo que se espera en breve plazo llenar las necesidades del tráfico.

“Últimamente se ha contratado con una compañía belga que explota las borateras de Jujuy, la construcción de una línea férrea que partiendo de esa ciudad, termine en Tres Moros, recorriendo una extensión de 140 kilómetros. He creído conveniente fomentar esta nueva industria, que será una rica fuente de prosperidad para los habitantes de esa parte de la República, y en este concepto, el Gobierno contribuirá á la obra con parte de los rieles y locomotoras que necesite y que se han obtenido en Europa del material de guerra. Este ferrocarril será siempre propiedad de la nación.”

#### CONGRESO INDUSTRIAL.

El artículo que á continuación se reproduce ha sido tomado del “Boletín de la Unión Industrial Argentina,” que es una publicación mensual que se da á luz en la ciudad de Buenos Aires:

“El 15 de abril del corriente año debió inaugurarse en esta Capital el primer Congreso Industrial Argentino, cuyo objeto es estudiar y solucionar los delicados problemas que tienen atingencia con el desenvolvimiento progresivo de nuestras industrias nacionales.

“Hay en la actualidad factores, conocidos unos y desconocidos otros, que dificultan y perturban la marcha expansiva de la producción argentina. La tarea del Congreso va á consagrarse, pues, á esas

cuestiones primordiales, cuya solución tanta importancia tiene para los intereses económicos del país.

“Debido á gestiones hechas por varias personas que deseaban presentar trabajos que tienen en preparación, y que aun no han podido terminar, y por delegados de gobiernos de provincias é instituciones científicas é industriales, la junta ejecutiva del Congreso acordó en su última sesión postergar la apertura de esa asamblea hasta el 15 de mayo, declarando este plazo improrrogable.

“Se resolvió, además, admitir trabajos hasta el 5 del mismo mes, fecha en que deben encontrarse instaladas las diversas comisiones, encargadas de estudiarlos é informar sobre ellos.

“La obra de la organización del Congreso ha sido coronada por el éxito más lisonjero. Se tuvo que luchar en un principio con la indiferencia de muchos; pero al final se han vencido esos escollos pasajeros con una propaganda activa y perseverante.

“Todos nuestros hombres amantes de la cultura y del progreso nacional y los industriales de los diversos gremios de la República han respondido á la cita del progreso.

“Los gobiernos federal y provinciales, las sociedades industriales y científicas han dado cuenta de su adhesión entusiasta y decidida, y no sólo han resuelto concurrir con delegaciones que los representen en esa asamblea, sino que también han acordado premios en dinero, medallas de oro, diplomas de honor y objetos de arte, para ser adjudicados á los autores de los trabajos que declare sobresalientes el jurado, que se organizará al efecto por el comité de organización.

“El congreso formulará como resultado de sus trabajos, conclusiones definitivas sobre cada uno de los temas que investigue, inspirándose para ello en las necesidades de cada industria, en los adelantos alcanzados por otros países en cuanto puedan serles aplicables y en los principios científicos en que se basan.

“En los temas propuestos se tratará del mejoramiento de las diversas industrias del país, figurando, en primer lugar la ganadería y sus transformaciones industriales, estudiando con especial atención la preparación del ganado en pie para la exportación, así como el perfeccionamiento de los medios para el transporte, imitando en esto á Norte América, que es en la actualidad el país que exporta ganado en pie en mejores condiciones.

“Con respecto á la agricultura, se ocupará de las zonas apropiadas para el cultivo del trigo en la República, dejando así llenada una importante necesidad, porque por falta de este estudio no se ha establecido ningún sistema de cultivo con relación á la selección y adopción de las semillas apropiadas á las zonas que se quiere cultivar.

“Tratará, asimismo, de otras cuestiones no menos importantes, tales como la vinicultura, la producción azucarera, la fabricación de fibras textiles, etc.



“Con referencia á la arboricultura, se ocupará de las formaciones de bosques especiales y sus medios de fomentarlos. El interés de este asunto queda de manifiesto, si tenemos en cuenta que en muchos países de Europa se ha adoptado este sistema por su indiscutible conveniencia.

“En la industria minera van á estudiarse las variedades é importancia de la riqueza mineralógica argentina y los medios prácticos de su aprovechamiento industrial.

“La industria fabril estará representada por el estudio de la molinería, de la destilería, lavado é hilado de lana, y de la curtiduría en sus métodos y sistemas de explotación, capaces de elevar esta industria á la categoría de exportadora.

“En la industria de transporte se tratará de los ferrocarriles á vapor, de los económicos de tracción eléctrica y á sangre, así como de las zonas que reclaman su acción. En la navegación será estudiado el cabotaje en los ríos, la navegación en las costas del sur y la zona en que es conveniente la construcción de canales navegables.

“El asunto importantísimo del crédito y la legislación industriales será uno de los puntos predilectos. En los temas comprendidos en esta sección va á tratarse de la conveniencia de reformar la ley de tierras y colonias, necesidad de leyes especiales para reprimir las falsificaciones y adulteraciones, de los tratados de comercio, reciprocidades y liberalidades, tarifas aduaneras, conveniencia de su estabilidad, de la ley de patentes de invención, de marcas de fábrica, etc.

“Muchos otros temas abarcará el vasto programa del congreso, como hidrografía, higiene, educación é instrucción, medios de prestigiar y hacer preferible el consumo de productos de la industria nacional, necesidad de suprimir las patentes provinciales á los viajeros de las fábricas nacionales y conveniencia de gravar con patente á los representantes ó comisionistas viajeros de fábricas extranjeras.”

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## BOLIVIA.

### DECRETO SOBRE EL TERRITORIO NACIONAL DE COLONIAS.

Debido á una atención del Señor Don MANUEL V. BALLIVIAN, el BOLETÍN MENSUAL puede publicar el importante decreto reglamentario sobre el territorio nacional de colonias, expedido con fecha de 8 de marzo de este año por el Señor JOSÉ MANUEL PANDO, Presidente de Bolivia.

“Considerando:

“Que la convención nacional ha fijado en la ley vigente del presupuesto las partidas necesarias para el servicio administrativo en el territorio comprendido dentro de los límites fijados en el artículo 2º del presente decreto, haciéndolo depender exclusivamente del ramo de Colonias.

“Que dicho servicio requiere una organización inmediata que manteniendo analogía con las leyes generales del país, se desenvuelva con la peculiaridad que le es consiguiente.

“Con el acuerdo del Consejo de Ministros—

“Decreto:

§ 1º.—*Disposiciones fundamentales.*

“ARTÍCULO 1º. Queda constituido el territorio nacional de Colonias bajo la dependencia directa del Ministerio de Colonización en todos los ramos del servicio público.

“ART. 2º. Los límites del territorio dependiente del Ministerio de Colonias serán, por el Norte, la línea de demarcación con el Brasil, que partiendo de la confluencia de los ríos Beni y Mamoré sube á las nacientes del río Yavarí; por el Sur, el curso de los ríos Madre de Dios y Bajo Beni, y por el Oeste, la frontera divisoria con el Perú.

“ART. 3º. Conforme al artículo 2º de la Constitución, habrá tolerancia de cultos en el territorio comprendido dentro de los límites fijados en el artículo anterior, pero el Estado sólo reconoce y sostiene la religión católica, apostólica y romana.

“ART. 4º. Todos los derechos y garantías reconocidos en la sección 2ª de la Constitución Política de Bolivia serán respetados por los funcionarios del territorio de Colonias.

“ART. 5º. Se considerarán bolivianos los extranjeros que habiendo residido un año en el territorio de Colonias, declaren ante la primera autoridad administrativa del lugar en que residan su voluntad de avecindarse en la República. Esta declaración se hará ante las municipalidades cuando lleguen á constituirse.

§ 2º.—*De la administración en general.*

“ART. 6º. El gobierno superior en lo político, administrativo y económico del territorio de Colonias residirá en un funcionario con la denominación de Delegado, que será agente inmediato del Poder Ejecutivo, con quien se entenderá por intermedio del Ministerio de Colonias.

“En todos los ramos, y en lo que pertenece al orden y seguridad del territorio, estarán subordinados al Delegado los funcionarios públicos residentes dentro de los límites fijados en el artículo 2º.

“ART. 7º. La Delegación tendrá su residencia en el lugar que crea conveniente, pudiendo variarla según las necesidades del servicio, y debiendo preferir los puertos fluviales adonde alcanza la navegación á vapor.

“ART. 8º. Todo funcionario destinado al territorio de Colonias contrae, en el acto de aceptar su cargo, el compromiso de permanecer en él por el término de dos años *mínimum*.

“En caso de ser promovido á otra función pública dentro del mismo territorio, el término se contará desde el día de la nueva designación.

“ART. 9º. El funcionario que hubiere cumplido su compromiso con honorabilidad, tendrá derecho á los gastos de viaje de regreso á su primitivo domicilio, y además á una gratificación consistente en la cuarta parte del haber de un año, correspondiente al último puesto ejercido.

“El empleado que antes de dicho término acepte un puesto particular ó abandone el puesto público, estará obligado á devolver al Tesoro, coactivamente, la misma cuarta parte del haber de un año, sin perjuicio de compelirle al cumplimiento de sus compromisos.

“ART. 10. La autoridad del Delegado y demás funcionarios se ha de concretar con preferencia al establecimiento de colonias agrícolas, apertura de caminos y exploraciones territoriales.

“Cada cinco años, á partir de 1901, se levantará una extensa información administrativa haciendo constar el número de pobladores y de establecimientos industriales, así como los puntos adecuados para la formación de puertos y aduanas, y todos los datos concernientes al desarrollo de las diversas actividades.

“ART. 11. Todos los empleados superiores serán nombrados por el Gobierno, teniendo en cuenta las indicaciones del Delegado, quien podrá, no obstante, llenar provisionalmente las vacancias, dando cuenta al Ministerio de Colonización.

“ART. 12. El Delegado, como depositario de la autoridad del Poder Ejecutivo, dará decretos y acuerdos para ordenar las materias de administración y policía, conformándose á las leyes y reglamentos respectivos.

“ART. 13. El Delegado nombrará las autoridades que fuesen indispensables en los puntos que no hubiesen sido provistos por el Gobierno ó el Congreso, tales como corregidores, jefes de tribus, alcaldes de campo, á fin de acrescentar las bases de organización fiscal.

“Mantendrá también correspondencia con las autoridades y consulados bolivianos y brasileros á efecto de regularizar la navegación fluvial, el tránsito de embarcaciones y correos, el movimiento de importaciones, exportaciones, etc.

“ART. 14. En los casos de conmoción interior que amenace la integridad de la República ó alteración del orden público, el Delegado, oyendo el dictamen del Consejo consultivo, de que se hablará más adelante, podrá tomar las siguientes medidas de carácter transitorio:

“1º. Aumentar la fuerza armada hasta la cifra que sea necesaria.

“2º. Negociar anticipos sobre las contribuciones y rendimientos nacionales.

“3º. Alejar á las personas sindicadas como factores principales de los desórdenes y establecer el uso de pasaportes.

“4º. Tomar, en fin, todas las medidas conducentes al restableci-

miento del orden, dando cuenta minuciosa y estricta al Gobierno para la aprobación legislativa del caso.

“ART. 15. En los negocios graves, y en los casos determinados expresamente en este reglamento, el Delegado pedirá dictamen de un Consejo consultivo, presidido por él y compuesto del fiscal de partido y administrador de la aduana, si residiere en el mismo lugar que el Delegado, sirviendo de secretario el de la Delegación.

“El voto de estos funcionarios será simplemente deliberativo; y la copia de sus actas será remitidas al Ministerio de Colonias.

§ 3º.—*De la Delegación.*

“ART. 16. El Delegado es responsable de los actos administrativos dictados en el territorio de su jurisdicción, y durará en el ejercicio de sus funciones por el período constitucional de cuatro años. Puede ser removido por el Presidente de la República por causales que afecten gravemente al buen servicio de la administración ó que comprometan el orden público.

“ART. 17. Para ser Delegado se necesita:

“1º. Ser boliviano de nacimiento ó naturalizado con cinco años de residencia fija en el país, en ejercicio de los derechos de ciudadanía.

“2º. Tener á lo ménos 30 años de edad.

ART. 18. Son atribuciones generales del Delegado las señaladas á los prefectos en los artículos 29, 30, 31, y 32 de la Ley de Organización Política, y en especial las siguientes:

“1º. La inspección y supervigilancia de las aduanas, debiendo comunicar las disposiciones cuyo cumplimiento les es obligatorio y las medidas que adopte para regularizar y uniformar el procedimiento aduanero.

“2º. El estudio de las necesidades industriales y comerciales del territorio y de los medios propios á su desenvolvimiento, adoptando las medidas más eficaces al efecto.

“3º. Prescribir los trabajos de preferencia á que deban dedicarse los ingenieros y agrimensores que le están sujetos, tales como la posición astronómica y la topografía de los lugares, planos del territorio, exploraciones fluviales y terrestres, etc.

“4º. Mantener correspondencia con todos los funcionarios de su jurisdicción, exigiéndoles las noticias y estados de sus operaciones, y resolver las consultas que aquéllos le dirijan.

“5º. Nombrar y suspender temporalmente á todos los empleados de su dependencia, siempre que las necesidades del servicio así lo requieran; conceder licencias conforme á ley nombrando los suplentes.

“6º. Cuidar de que en las oficinas fiscales se lleven todos los libros y se verifiquen con regularidad las respectivas operaciones, imponiendo la responsabilidad por las faltas que notare.

“7º. Examinar con particularidad los resultados mensuales de la recaudación aduanera, cuidando que ella se sujete á los aranceles,

dando inmediato parte al Gobierno y adoptando las medidas convenientes con cargo de cuenta.

“8°. Iniciar el estudio de comunicaciones y del trayecto más conveniente para los correos y telégrafos nacionales.

“9°. Preparar la concesión gratuita ó en pública subasta de los terrenos colonizables, previo justiprecio y mensura, y adjudicarlos con cargo de aprobación del Gobierno, en los límites y formas atribuidos al Ejecutivo por la ley de colonias de 13 de noviembre de 1886 y el reglamento respectivo.

“10. Mandar deslindar los terrenos del Estado que hubiesen sido vendidos ó adjudicados á particulares y ordenar se levanten planos de las tierras disponibles y desocupadas.

“11. Proteger las misiones religiosas y fomentarlas con arreglo á las disposiciones generales que las rigen.

“12. Proponer la organización cantonal de las colonias, tan pronto como sus grupos de población requieran la asistencia de autoridades municipales, administrativas y judiciales.

“13. Supervigilar el tránsito y gobierno de embarcaciones nacionales, dictando las medidas apropiadas para su seguridad y reparaciones y prescribiendo las obligaciones de los capitanes, pilotos, maquinistas, etc.

“14. Cuidar especialmente de la fundación de escuelas en los centros poblados, pidiendo al Gobierno los recursos necesarios.

“15. Formular cada seis meses un informe al Gobierno, rindiendo cuenta detallada de las medidas de administración y del ejercicio que se hubiere hecho de las atribuciones generales y especiales que se acaban de enumerar.

“ART. 19. En los casos de ausencia, enfermedad, impedimento ó muerte del Delegado, será suplido por el intendente mientras el Gobierno determine lo conveniente.

“ART. 20. El Delegado nombrará también á los jueces parroquiales cuya conducta se modelará á las leyes y disposiciones concernientes.

“ART. 21. Respecto á la inversión de rentas que hubiere sido indispensable efectuar, sin orden previa del Gobierno, se presentará una cuenta especial y circunstanciada para su glosa y estudio en el Tesoro Nacional y Tribunal de Cuentas.

“ART. 22. El Delegado será juzgado por delitos cometidos en el ejercicio de sus funciones por los mismos tribunales y formas determinadas para el juzgamiento de los prefectos.

“ART. 23. Habrá en la Delegación un secretario cuyas obligaciones serán:

“1°. Llevar la correspondencia conforme á las instrucciones de su jefe y redactar con prolijidad y conforme á las leyes todas las resoluciones que acuerde el Delegado.

“2°. Llevar los libros copiadores de correspondencia y resoluciones, remitiendo mensualmente copias certificadas de éstas al Gobierno.

“3°. Coleccionar todos los datos estadísticos de la Delegación como jefe del ramo y remitirlos por conducto del Delegado al Ministerio de Colonias.

“4°. Llevar la matrícula de la población y los establecimientos industriales, pidiendo los datos del caso á los intendentes, corregidores y alcaldes y anotándose la calidad de naturales ó transeuntes y las edades, sexo, estado civil, profesiones, etc.

“5°. Cuidar que el archivo sea arreglado y conservado debidamente por los auxiliares.

“6°. Establecer el régimen y disciplina en la oficina, exigiendo el trabajo diario de siete horas por lo menos.

“ART. 24. La tesorería de la delegación estará á cargo del secretario ó de un funcionario especial, si así lo determina el Poder Legislativo, debiendo observarse en el manejo é inversión de fondos las disposiciones fiscales que rigen la materia.

“ART. 25. El empleado que administre la tesorería prestará una fianza calificada por el consejo consultivo de la Delegación ó por el Ministerio de Colonias. En ambos casos se requiere la aprobación del Presidente de la República.

“ART. 26. Adicto á la Delegación funcionará un médico cuyos deberes son: atender á los empleados públicos y á las enfermedades de las poblaciones. Además tiene las siguientes incumbencias:

“1°. Estudiar las enfermedades y la distribución geográfica de ellas y concretar los datos que ofrecieren.

“2°. Formular un informe semestral sobre dichos estudios, que se publicará como anexo al informe del Delegado.

“ART. 27. El farmacéutico dependerá inmediatamente del médico, y será su colaborador en las incumbencias determinadas en el artículo anterior.

#### § 4°.—*De la mesa topográfica.*

“ART. 28. La mesa topográfica del territorio de Colonias estará compuesta de los ingenieros y agrimensores que determina la ley de presupuesto, y procederá con independencia en sus trabajos técnicos, quedando sujeta al delegado en la determinación de ellos y en todo lo administrativo.

“ART. 29. Sus deberes son:

“1°. Levantar las cartas geográficas del territorio, empleando los procedimientos más modernos y autorizados por la ciencia.

“2°. Verificar las exploraciones fluviales, fijando el curso de los ríos, su extensión y profundidad, la naturaleza geológica del lecho, las épocas de creciente y baja de las aguas, la posibilidad de navegarlas en vapores, y el desplazamiento y calado de ellos.

“3°. Determinar las márgenes de los ríos que ofrezcan facilidades para la fundación de puertos, aduanas, resguardos, etc.

“4°. En las exploraciones terrestres, precisará la naturaleza y accidentes del suelo, altura de los lugares, situación y calidad de las aguas, vertientes y demás circunstancias orográficas y geológicas que convenga conocer.

“5°. Practicar los estudios necesarios para la apertura de vías de comunicación y levantar los respectivos planos y presupuestos.

“6°. Determinar las regiones de producción gomera, las circunstancias que las caracterizan y los territorios que se presten al establecimiento de colonias por su clima y situación.

“7°. Proceder á la división, justiprecio y mensura de las tierras colonizables, dividiéndolas en secciones, zonas y lotes, reuniendo los terrenos que se asimilen por sus condiciones climatológicas y de producción.

“8°. Proporcionar al delegado los datos é informaciones que éste requiera.

“9°. Inscribir las propiedades que adjudique sobre el plano general que levante.

“ART. 30. Los resultados obtenidos por aquellos estudios se transmitirán á conocimiento del Gobierno, con los planos y reflexiones del caso y se publicarán como anexo al informe del Delegado.

§ 5°.—*De las aduanas.*

“ART. 31. El régimen y la administración de las aduanas del territorio de Colonias queda sujeto á los aranceles é impuestos vigentes, á la ley de 25 de noviembre de 1893 y al decreto que la reglamenta.

“ART. 32. El Delegado podrá acordar en casos muy especiales las medidas apropiadas para que se modifique alguno de los procedimientos preexistentes, conformándose á las condiciones peculiares del territorio que administra.

“De todas estas medidas dará cuenta inmediata al Gobierno.

“ART. 33. Los funcionarios de aduanas ajustarán sus actos y deberes á las disposiciones que rigen la materia, y quedan dependientes del Delegado, á quién corresponden en este caso las atribuciones de la superintendencia del ramo.

“ART. 34. Los derechos se pagarán en las aduanas del territorio de Colonias, á tiempo de internarse ó extraerse las respectivas mercaderías, en moneda nacional brasilera ó en letras á Manaos, el Pará ó Londres, sobre cuya conversión se estipularán las mayores seguridades.

“ART. 35. De dichos fondos se entregarán á la tesorería de la Delegación las sumas destinadas á cubrir los presupuestos de los funcionarios del territorio.

“El resto se remitirá mensualmente al Tesoro Nacional con toda seguridad y sin demora alguna.

“ART. 36. Los administradores de aduana elevarán mensualmente

y en doble ejemplar los balances y documentos de su contabilidad, debiendo remitirse uno de los ejemplares al Ministerio de Colonias para su centralización en el Tesoro Nacional.

§ 6º.—*Del Servicio de Policía y la Fuerza Armada.*

“ART. 37. El servicio de policía de orden y seguridad del territorio de Colonias incumbe al intendente, quien aplicará la ley reglamentaria de 16 de noviembre de 1886, en cuanto sea compatible con la índole de las poblaciones y las reglas que por decreto especial acuerde el Delegado.

“ART. 38. Corresponde además al intendente:

“1º. Tener la vigilancia inmediata de las tripulaciones particulares y del estado.

“2º. Organizar las fuerzas expedicionarias de tierra, fijando con el Delegado el itinerario, los lugares de campamento, é interviniendo en la provisión y transporte de víveres.

“3º. Atender al buen servicio, aseo y seguridad de los vapores, batelones y monterías nacionales.

“ART. 39. La fuerza armada queda sometida en su organización y disciplina á las ordenanzas y reglamentos de la materia, hallándose sujeta á la autoridad superior del Delegado.

§ 7º.—*Del Servicio Judicial.*

“ART. 40. Los funcionarios judiciales del territorio de Colonias serán los que determine el Presupuesto Nacional.

“ART. 41. Los recursos de apelación y nulidad y en general todos los que franquean las leyes se llevarán ante los jueces instructor, de partido, juez superior y Corte Suprema, respectivamente, según el caso, conforme á los que los rigen.

“ART. 42. Se faculta al Delegado para crear notarios en las poblaciones que lo requieran y determinar su clase.

“Dichos funcionarios quedarán en todo sujetos á la ley del notariado.

“ART. 43. Los derechos que deban percibir los notarios, no rentados por el fisco, se sujetarán al arancel que dicte el Delegado con cargo de aprobación suprema.

§ 8º.—*Disposiciones Complementarias.*

“ART. 44. El Delegado decretará el pago de los sueldos de los empleados de su jurisdicción, remitiendo un ejemplar de los respectivos presupuestos al Gobierno para su aprobación y centralización en el Tesoro Nacional.

“ART. 45. Las obras públicas indispensables para el servicio administrativo, se emprenderán por el Delegado, previo dictamen del consejo consultivo, y conforme á los planos y presupuestos de la mesa topográfica, con cargo de cuenta al Gobierno.



“ART. 46. Se organizarán por la Delegación servicios municipales, encargando de ellos á tres ó más agentes, según la importancia de las poblaciones. Dichos agentes tomarán sus acuerdos presididos por el intendente ó corregidores.

“ART. 47. El Delegado propondrá al Gobierno para la sanción legislativa del caso los impuestos de carácter municipal que sean necesarios para los servicios comunales.

“Los señores Ministros de Gobierno y Fomento y de Guerra y Colonización quedan encargados de la ejecución y cumplimiento del presente decreto que será sometido á la próxima Legislatura para la aprobación respectiva.”

#### LEY DE BANCOS.

“El Comercio,” de La Paz, en su edición del 9 de abril próximo pasado, publica la ley de bancos emitida por la Convención Nacional y promulgada el 31 de marzo de este año. Según dicha ley, los bancos de emisión, depósitos y descuentos que actualmente existen y los que se establezcan en lo sucesivo sólo podrán emitir billetes hasta el máximo de ciento por ciento sobre su capital efectivo. Se concede á los bancos Nacional de Bolivia y Francisco Argandoña el término de cuatro años para retirar de la circulación é incinerar los billetes de la emisión excedente del 50 por ciento, una cuarta parte cada año. El capital de los bancos de emisión podrá aumentarse sobre el monto á que tienen derecho por disposiciones preexistentes, con la correspondiente autorización legislativa. \* \* \* En caso de aumento de capital en los bancos de emisión, se comprobará, mediante previo juramento del gerente, que los nuevos suscritores de acciones no son deudores de dicho banco. El metálico en caja en todos los bancos de emisión no podrá bajar en ningún caso del 30 por ciento sobre la emisión. \* \* \* En los balances semestrales se consignará un acta en la que consten los billetes que los bancos tengan en caja, para que, sumando su valor con el de los billetes en circulación, se conozca la emisión total.

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### BRASIL.

#### MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE CAMPOS SALLES.

Á continuación se publica un extracto del mensaje que el Presidente del Brasil dirigió al Congreso Nacional, al inaugurarse sus sesiones el 3 de mayo del año en curso.

Da principio á su mensaje el Señor Presidente del Brasil manifestando que son muy satisfactorias las relaciones de aquella República con las naciones extranjeras, y menciona la visita que le hizo el Presidente de la República Argentina, como un hecho de alta significación.

Al hablar de la cuestión de límites con la Guayana francesa, dice que

ha sido sometida de común acuerdo á una decisión arbitral, y que el árbitro será el Gobierno de Suiza. Espera el Presidente que el fallo será favorable al Brasil.

Las negociaciones relativas á la cuestión de límites con la Guayana inglesa serán continuadas, con motivo de la muy lamentado muerte del Doctor CORREA, Ministro que fué del Brazil en Londres, por el Señor BACHAREL JOAQUIM AURELIO NABUCO DE ARAUJO.

Largamente trata el Presidente la cuestión del Acre, y hace una reseña desde la celebración del Tratado de 1874 hasta la época en que se firmó el último protocolo.

El mensaje dice que el Gobierno del Brazil solicitó del de Francia una reducción de los derechos de importación sobre el café, que ascendían al 30 por ciento, y que el Gobierno francés prometió reducir los á la mitad. También se solicitó una reducción de dichos derechos del Gobierno italiano, que prometió disminuirlos en 30 liras.

Hace referencia el Presidente á la conspiración monárquica, y asegura que ella ha venido á demostrar la solidez de las instituciones republicanas en el Brazil. Menciona el Señor CAMPOS SALLES la aparición de la peste bubónica en São Paulo. Aconseja que se hagan reformas en el sistema electoral y judicial.

Recomiendo el Presidente, el hablar del Ejército, la adopción de un código penal militar.

Sobre el asunto de vías férreas dice el mensaje que el Gobierno ha dado en arriendo el ferrocarril de São Francisco, y está tratando de hacer lo mismo con los ferrocarriles de Pernambuco y Paulo Affonso.

La cuestión económica presenta gran interés, y el Presidente habla de la difícil situación del país á principios de su administración, y manifiesta que su programa de Gobierno fué reducir los gastos y aumentar las rentas. Se asegura que el Gobierno está entrando ahora en un período muy próspero, y que se espera con toda confianza la fecha en que se resumirán los pagos en metálico.

Las rentas totales durante el año económico ascendieron á 19,417,706 milreis oro y 302,693,000 milreis papel. Los gastos durante el año económico ascendieron á 225,942,225 milreis papel y 14,092,046 milreis oro. Deduciendo los gastos de las entradas, queda un balance de 88,311,775 milreis papel y 5,325,600 milreis oro.

En cuanto á las entradas del presente año económico, nada se puede decir con seguridad, pero un estudio de las condiciones generales del país indica que no serán inferiores á las del año pasado.

En conclusión, el Presidente manifiesta que la situación favorable en que se encuentra ahora la República se debe, no solamente á los esfuerzos del Congreso y del Gobierno, sino también á los del pueblo del Brasil que no ha economizado esfuerzo alguno para levantar el crédito de la nación.

## CHILE.

## NOTABLE DOCUMENTO.

Bien merece este nombre la memoria de la Legación de Chile en el Imperio del Japón, presentada al Gobierno chileno por el Señor Don CARLOS MORLA VICUÑA, que fué acreditado en el carácter de Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de la República de Chile ante el Mikado. Contiene dicha memoria un estudio acerca del nitrato de soda como abono agrícola en el Japón. Es éste un trabajo extenso y detallado en el que se encuentran datos muy interesantes relativos al asunto sobre que versa. Al fin de dicho estudio el Señor MORLA VICUÑA publica el siguiente resumen:

“La exposición que precede, fundada en datos oficiales derivados de estadísticas gubernativas, de memorias del Departamento de Agricultura, de las obras de los Profesores KINCH, KELLNER, FESCA, RATHGEN y REIN sobre la industria agrícola, los análisis químicos de la tierra, de los abonos y de los principales productos del Japón y de los informes periódicos de las estaciones agronómicas que conducen ensayos experimentales, demuestra, fuera de toda duda, que el nitrato de soda al precio que hoy tiene es, en seguida del abono de granja y de las materias fecales, la fuente más ventajosa de nitrógeno como fertilizante agrícola y que su consumo por la agricultura japonesa será ilimitado y alcanzará en pocos años á más de 100,000 toneladas, una vez superada la rutina de la tradición. La opinión de expertos de la más alta autoridad, como el Señor SAWANO, Director de la Estación Experimental Central de Tokio, es que el nitrato de soda, al precio designado en este informe, no tardaría más de tres años en ser aplicado en todo el país á sus más importantes cultivos.

“La compañía que se organice para la importación directa de esa substancia emprenderá por consiguiente un negocio provechoso:

“1°. Para la agricultura del Japón, porque la proveerá de un abono eficaz y relativamente barato, que le permitirá acrecentar su producción, reduciendo sus desembolsos.

“2°. Para las industrias del Japón, porque tratará de crear un comercio de retorno, llevando los productos japoneses á los países de la costa occidental de Sud América. Los productos que es probable que hallen allí mercado son: el arroz, hoy llevado á Chile de los Estados Unidos, de España y del Perú; el te, consumido allí extensamente é importado de China y de Ceilán por vía de Europa; lozas y porcelanas comunes, que hoy se reciben de Europa; telas de algodón blancas y estampadas, que aquellas poblaciones usan para vestirse y que hoy se procuran á mayor costo de Inglaterra y Alemania; los mil artículos de fantasía, allí de uso general, como los abanicos, linternas, parasoles, papeles,

esteras y esterillas, tapices y alfombras, etc., y aun algunos crespones y sederías.

“3°. Para la industria salitrera de Chile, porque su principal objeto es abrir un nuevo é importante mercado para su producción, que es susceptible de ilimitado desenvolvimiento.

“4°. Para todos los países de la costa occidental de la América del Sur, porque va á ponerlos en comunicación frecuente y periódica con el Japón y demás países orientales.

“Es de esperar que los Gobiernos del Japón y de aquellas repúblicas sudamericanas, dirigidos por ilustrados estadistas, comprendiendo que la empresa va á redundar en beneficio de todos, la ayudarán á asegurar el éxito: el Japón dejando entrar en franquicia el nitrato de soda, destinado á servir de abono agrícola, y todos subvencionando, siquiera sea moderadamente, la línea de navegación que la compañía establezca entre la costa occidental de América y este Imperio, á lo menos durante los tres ó cuatro primeros años, mientras se establezca de un modo regular la corriente comercial recíproca.”

#### **BANCO DE PUNTA ARENAS.**

El Gobierno de Chile ha aprobado los estatutos de la sociedad anónima denominada “Banco de Punta Arenas,” la cual, como su nombre lo indica, fué organizada con objeto de fundar un banco en Punta Arenas, Magallanes.

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### **COSTA RICA.**

#### **MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE.**

Á continuación se publican algunos de los párrafos más importantes del mensaje del Señor Presidente IGLESIAS, dirigido al Congreso de Costa Rica el 1° de mayo del año corriente:

“Al rendiros el presente informe, en cumplimiento de deber constitucional, grato es para mí poder aseguraros que el estado político de la República, así en su modo de ser interno, como en sus relaciones externas, es de todo punto satisfactorio; contribuyendo eficazmente á lo primero, los hábitos de orden y consagración al trabajo que de manera especial caracterizan al pueblo costarricense, y á lo segundo, el esmero con que el Gobierno ha procurado que todos sus actos internacionales se inspiren siempre en el más profundo respeto al derecho y correspondan, en todo caso, á las reglas de la más estricta cortesía, obteniendo, como consecuencia, que las relaciones de amistad mantenidas con las demás naciones sean cada día más francas y cordiales.

#### **CUESTIÓN DE LÍMITES CON COLOMBIA.**

“La cuestión de límites con Colombia, origen tantas veces de dificultades entre ésta y aquella República, para bien de ambas, está

próxima á resolverse. El ilustre Presidente de la República Francesa, Alto Árbitro nombrado por las Partes, habrá de dictar su laudo sobre este importantísimo litigio, antes de finalizar el mes de setiembre del presente año.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### LÍNEA DIVISORIA ENTRE COSTA RICA Y NICARAGUA.

“Los trabajos de deslinde y amojonamiento de la línea divisoria entre Costa Rica y Nicaragua están próximos á terminarse, si para ello se toma en cuenta que ha sido ya resuelta por el Ingeniero Árbitro nombrado por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de Norte América, la cuestión que le fué sometida por la comisión de Nicaragua respecto á la fijación del centro de la bahía de Salinas, punto terminal de la línea divisoria. Este fallo concuerda perfectamente con lo resuelto por el laudo arbitral de Mr. GROVER CLEVELAND y con los trabajos que en su oportunidad hubo de realizar la comisión costarricense en 1890.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### INSTRUCCIÓN PÚBLICA.

“La instrucción pública ha merecido del Gobierno atención especial en todas las formas en que ella se atiende con fondos del Estado.

“La enseñanza primaria ha recibido notable ensanche con la creación de nuevas escuelas en todos aquellos centros de población que por su natural crecimiento lo han requerido.

\* \* \* \* \*

“En cuanto á la segunda enseñanza se han reorganizado los principales centros que dependen directamente del Gobierno—el Colegio de Señoritas y el Liceo de Costa Rica; conservándose en el primero el mismo plan de estudios establecido desde 1895, pero con aplicación esencialmente normal. En el Liceo de Costa Rica el plan de estudios ha sido modificado fundamentalmente, dando preferencia en él á las ciencias y á los idiomas como medio de hacer más práctica y por consiguiente más útil la enseñanza.

\* \* \* \* \*

“Como ensanche de la enseñanza profesional ha sido siempre vivo deseo de mi Gobierno la creación de las escuelas de Ingeniería, Agrimensura y de Artes mecánicas, dependientes de la respectiva facultad que al efecto habría de organizarse. La Secretaría de Instrucción Pública os presentará, con ese fin, durante el actual período legislativo, el correspondiente proyecto de ley, elaborado ya. Hecho esto, procede desde luego la reerección de la Universidad como centro superior de los Cuerpos Facultativos.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SITUACIÓN ECONÓMICA.

“La situación económica del país se presenta hoy en condiciones mucho más favorables que en años anteriores. Esto se debe en gran parte á la reacción que de modo natural se produce inmediatamente después de todo estado de crisis, mientras ésta no surja de causas extrañas á los trastornos del comercio que con frecuencia se presentan, pero siempre de suyo con carácter transitorio.

“Fué causa de esa crisis la baja casi repentina del precio del café en los mercados extranjeros, motivando como consecuencia inmediata la suspensión de los créditos ordinariamente concedidos al comercio nacional. Concurrente con esta dificultad la naturaleza de nuestro medio circulante, hubo de elevarse el tipo del cambio internacional de modo inusitado, originándose de todo ello perturbaciones más ó menos violentas en la marcha ordinaria de las transacciones, especialmente en aquéllas sustentados por el crédito. En resumen: la baja del precio del café redujo casi á la mitad el valor dedicado á la satisfacción de los créditos, y el alza extraordinaria del tipo de cambio, elevó en proporción respecto de nuestra moneda, el monto de la deuda del comercio á favor del extranjero.

“Bajo tan des favorables auspicios no pudieron menos que efectuarse liquidaciones ruinosas para la generalidad, las cuales afectaron hondamente todo el sistema económico del país.

“En virtud de esto, las operaciones de nuestro comercio hubieron de reducirse forzosamente hasta poder obtener, sobre la base fijada por las nuevas cotizaciones de precio del café, el restablecimiento del equilibrio bruscamente interrumpido en las transacciones internacionales. Á su vez, el uso del crédito en las transacciones interiores buscó su cauce natural y amoldándose á la situación creada, se consolidó en mejor y más segura forma, dando de mano á multitud de falsas especulaciones basadas únicamente en el abuso del crédito.

“La reacción se ha hecho sentir, y si aun no ha sido perceptible para la generalidad, debido es esto á que, concentrado todavía el giro internacional en pocas manos, por efecto de la crisis pasada, las especulaciones en las letras de cambio han desplegado mayor actividad y fuerza que nunca, entrabando la favorable evolución que se efectuaba; y sólo después de emitido el decreto ejecutivo de 17 de abril próximo pasado, que ordena la circulación del oro, ha podido el país darse cuenta de su verdadera situación y apreciarla con pleno conocimiento de causa.

“A comprobar lo expuesto vienen de una parte, los datos de la Oficina de Estadística, y de otra, la baja repentina y constante del tipo del cambio, iniciada inmediatamente después de la emisión de aquel decreto. Según aquéllos, el monto de las exportaciones durante el año de 1899 alcanza á \$5,000,000 oro, próximamente, y el de las importaciones á \$4,200,000, quedando en consecuencia un saldo á favor

de nuestra balanza comercial de \$800,000, oro, más ó menos. Y respecto del tipo del cambio, éste ha descendido durante los últimos quince días del 150 por ciento al 125 por ciento sobre Londres.

“La emisión del decreto de 15 de abril reconoce como razones fundamentales la necesidad de afianzar la evolución que de modo favorable experimenta el país en orden á su economía, y de protegerla contra las especulaciones del cambio arraigadas de tiempo atrás en nuestro mercado. Por lo que hace á la oportunidad de esa inedita, tuvo en cuenta el Gobierno que no debía esperarse al 31 de diciembre próximo, término fijado de antemano para el cambio de los certificados de oro, por cuanto concurriendo en aquella época, con motivo de la cosecha del café, la mayor demanda de numerario, no era prudente, en previsión de posibles trastornos á que pudiera dar lugar la sustitución de la moneda, dejar para entonces la circulación del oro. En consecuencia, hubo de designarse una fecha, en la cual, por los datos que suministra la circulación de billetes del Banco de Costa Rica durante varios años, se acentúa la menor demanda de numerario.

“La cantidad de moneda de oro con que contará el país al implantarse de hecho el nuevo patrón monetario, satisfará ampliamente las necesidades del cambio y dejará margen bastante á la retención que, por razones bien conocidas, habrá de experimentar la nueva moneda en los primeros momentos de su circulación.

“Cinco millones de colones, oro, próximamente, responderán á la efectividad de aquella disposición. Si á esta cantidad se agrega la de un millón más ó menos existente hoy en moneda nacional de plata, el monto de nuestro medio circulante metálico se elevará á seis millones, suficiente á garantizar, de otra parte y de manera bien satisfactoria, la circulación de billetes del Banco de Costa Rica, cambiables por oro, cuyo promedio alcanza á tres millones.

“En ningún tiempo de la vida nacional ha contado el país con cantidad igual de medio circulante; no obstante esto, el Gobierno, en su deseo de imprimir á la evolución monetaria la mayor regularidad en sus funciones, dictará en breve medidas conducentes á legalizar la circulación de las monedas de oro extranjeras, de los Estados Unidos de Norte América, Inglaterra, Francia y Alemania; á rescatar las monedas de oro nacionales de cuños anteriores á 1897 y á la compra de pastas de oro que sean producto de la industria minera nacional.

“La circulación del oro reaparecerá en Costa Rica después de un interregno de diez y seis años en que han prevalecido las fluctuaciones en el tipo del cambio internacional, produciéndose trastornos violentos en el medio circulante fiduciario. Á esa situación de suyo expuesta á eventualidades difíciles de prever y más difíciles aun de combatir, se sucederá en breve otra de garantía para el capital, de estabilidad para el desarrollo de la riqueza pública, de fijeza para el cálculo, de aliento para el trabajo, de estímulo para el ahorro y de perfecta igualdad para

todos en la empeñada lucha por la vida. La clase obrera, especialmente, que representa la gran mayoría de las fuerzas productoras del país, se pondrá á salvo por este medio, de las fluctuaciones constantes del valor de sus salarios, largo tiempo mantenidas por la ficción de un medio circulante sin valor fijo. La redención del salario será, pues, un hecho, y bajo su influencia benéfica la confianza en la remuneración del propio esfuerzo renacerá de nuevo, y con ella un relativo bienestar para el obrero.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### OBRAS PÚBLICAS.

“Entre las obras á cargo de la Secretaría de Fomento, la del ferrocarril al Pacífico es la de mayor importancia. El valor de los trabajos verificados en el año alcanza, próximamente, á \$475,000, oro americano, de los cuales se han pagado en efectivo al contratista \$235,000, oro, suma equivalente, por razón del tipo del cambio, á \$633,000, moneda nacional.

“De acuerdo con la localización final de la línea, ésta tendrá 59 millas de extensión hasta su punto terminal en el puerto de Tivives; de esta distancia están concluidos los trabajos de nivelación y mampostería en un trayecto de 35 millas. De las 24 restantes, 5 millas, que requieren el trabajo más difícil y costoso, están terminadas en más de la mitad; las 19 restantes son las que presentan mayores facilidades de construcción en todo el trayecto. Se han tendido 12 millas de vía, ya balastadas, y el tren de construcción recorre la línea hasta San Antonio de Belén.

“Uno de los trabajos más importantes de esta vía férrea es el del puente sobre el río Grande, cuya colocación se comenzará en noviembre próximo. Terminada ésta, quedará prácticamente unida la región del litoral del Pacífico con el interior de la República, y la obra del ferrocarril habrá vencido por este medio sus mayores obstáculos, dada la magnitud de los trabajos ya ejecutados en la sección comprendida entre el río Grande y Santo Domingo de San Mateo.

“Para completar esta importantísima vía que establecerá á través de Costa Rica el paso ferroviario interoceánico, se propone el Gobierno ocuparse desde luego en la ejecución de las obras que requiere, para su adecuado servicio, el puerto de Tivives.

\* \* \* \* \*

“No he de concluir sin recomendar á vuestra ilustrada consideración la necesidad, aconsejada por la experiencia, de incorporar á la Carta Fundamental, como preceptos de la misma, la base de nuestro sistema monetario, establecida por la ley de moneda de 24 de octubre de 1896, y la prohibición absoluta de emisiones de billetes por cuenta del Estado. Sin estas dos prescripciones puede ser ilusorio, en cierto grado, el principio constitucional que garantiza la propiedad.



**CIRCULACIÓN DE MONEDAS EXTRANJERAS.**

“**RAFAEL IGLESIAS**, Presidente Constitucional de la República de Costa Rica,

“Considerando que es de todo punto conveniente para el mejor desarrollo de las transacciones internacionales del país, facilitar la concurrencia de las monedas de oro extranjeras á la República; de conformidad con lo establecido en el Artículo XVII de la ley de moneda de 24 de octubre de 1896,

“Decreta:

“**ARTÍCULO 1.** Tendrán curso legal en Costa Rica las monedas de oro de los Estados Unidos de Norte América, Inglaterra, Francia y Alemania, en tanto conserven aquéllas su actual peso y ley. En consecuencia, dichas monedas circularán al igual de la moneda nacional de oro “el colón,” con la siguiente relación de valor:

“El dollar americano por dos colones, diez céntimos.

“La libra esterlina por diez colones, veinte céntimos.

“El franco por cuarenta céntimos.

“El marco por cincuenta céntimos.

“**ART. 2.** El presente decreto empezará á regir desde la fecha de su publicación.

“Dado en la ciudad de San José, en la Casa Presidencial, á los 4 días del mes de mayo de 1900.”

**CONVENCIÓN RELATIVA Á MARCAS DE FÁBRICA Y COMERCIO.**

El Gobierno de Costa Rica y el de la Gran Bretaña celebraron una convención relativa á marcas de fábrica y de comercio, que aparece publicada en el No. 107 de la Gaceta Oficial de aquella República.

**CONVENIO POSTAL.**

También se publica en el mismo número de la citada Gaceta Oficial, el convenio referente al cambio de giros postales, que fué celebrado entre Francia y la República de Costa Rica.

**MINAS DE ORO.**

El Gobierno de Costa Rica ha aprobado las bases constitutivas y reglamentarias de la sociedad denominada “Abangares Gold Fields of Costa Rica.” El objeto que tiene en mira esta corporación es emprender trabajos de minas de oro y otros minerales en gran escala.

## CUBA.

## DERECHOS SOBRE LOS CUEROS.

Según el nuevo arancel para Cuba, promulgado por orden del Secretario de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos el 14 de mayo, y que comenzará á regir después del 15 de junio de este año, los derechos sobre los cueros, pieles y efectos de cuero, incluyendo el calzado, son los siguientes, clasificados en el grupo 2 de la clase 10:

189. Pieles en su estado natural ó adobadas, 10 por ciento ad valorem.

190. Cueros y pieles crudos, secos, salados ó adobados, 10 por ciento ad valorem.

191. Cueros curtidos con el pelo, 15 por ciento ad valorem.

192. Cueros curtidos, adobados y acabados, sin el pelo, incluyendo el cuero crudo, cuero de suela, suelas cortadas para remiendos, cuero para correas, palas, arneses y talabartería, 15 por ciento ad valorem.

193. Pieles curtidas, adobadas y acabadas, incluyendo becerros, pieles de cangarú, badanas, pieles de cordero, de cabra y cabritilla, 15 por ciento ad valorem.

194. Cueros y pieles varnizados y charolados ó esmaltados; pieles con figuras, grabadas ó estampadas, 20 por ciento ad valorem.

195. Pieles cortadas en palas ó empeines para calzado, ó en otra forma cualquiera para ser convertidas en artículos manufacturados; también objetos de cuero, terminados ó sin terminar, no especificados, 25 por ciento ad valorem.

196. Guantes de piel, \$3.50 kilogramo.

Guantes para base-ball y para pugilato, \$1 el kilogramo.

197. Botas, zapatos y zapatillas, tamaños para hombres del No. 5 en adelante (medida americana), 15 centavos el par y 10 por ciento ad valorem.

Para niños, jóvenes, señoras y señoritas, 10 centavos el par y 10 por ciento ad valorem.

198. Botas y zapatos para niños, tamaño  $9\frac{1}{2}$  y más pequeños, medida americana, 5 centavos el par y 10 por ciento ad valorem.

199. Botas de montar, \$2 el par.

200. Sandalias hechas sin cuero, 40 centavos docena.

201. Efectos de talabartería: arneses de tiro que no sean para coches, 5 centavos el kilogramo; arneses para coches, 10 centavos el kilogramo; otros artículos para talabarteros y fabricantes de arneses, maletas, cajas para sombreros, sacos de mano hechos de cartón ó cuero, 20 centavos kilogramo.

202. Otros objetos de cuero ó forrados de cuero, 25 por ciento ad valorem.

Correas de cuero que no sean para maquinaria pagarán derecho de conformidad con lo dispuesto en este artículo.

#### ENTRADAS EN ABRIL DE 1900.

Según el informe del Departamento de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos, las entradas en el tesoro durante el mes de abril de este año ascendieron á \$1,370,387, divididos de esta manera: aduanas, \$1,257,284; renta interior, \$79,606; servicio postal, \$18,459; fuentes diversas, \$15,038.

#### CENSO DE LOS EMPLEADOS DE ADUANAS.

El Departamento de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos ha publicado un informe relativo á la nacionalidad de los empleados de aduana en la Isla de Cuba, pór el cual se ve que hay 668 individuos en ese servicio. De este número 515 son cubanos, 99 españoles, 50 ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos y 4 de otras nacionalidades. De los 2,254 empleados de todas clases bajo el Gobierno militar de Cuba, en la fecha del informe (25 de mayo de 1900), 1,727 eran cubanos, 378 ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos y 149 españoles y de otras nacionalidades.

#### CARGAMENTOS DE MUEBLES PARA ESCUELAS.

El "Journal of Commerce," de Nueva York, dice que todos los vapores que salgan para la Habana durante el mes de junio y por dos semanas más, llevarán grandes cargamentos de muebles para escuelas. La cantidad que de dichos muebles se envió del puerto de Nueva York durante el mes de mayo de este año fué valorada en cerca de \$50,000. Los contratos para estos muebles fueron celebrados con casas de los Estados Unidos hace unos tres meses, y ascendieron á la cantidad de \$500,000. Se ha necesitado algún tiempo para fabricar estos artículos, y tan luego están terminados se les remite á Cuba.

#### NUEVA LÍNEA DE VAPORES DE NUEVA YORK Á ESPAÑA.

La Compañía General Transatlántica Española, cuyos vapores han estado haciendo la travesía por muchos años entre Nueva York y los puertos de Cuba y México, inaugurará un nuevo servicio de vapores para carga y pasajeros entre Nueva York y España. Dicho servicio comenzará en breve, siendo el vapor *Cataluña* el que hará el primer viaje. Los puertos de España que visitarán estos vapores son los de Cadiz y Barcelona, de donde pasarán á Génova (Italia). Los viajes serán mensuales, pero es la intención de la empresa aumentar el número de éstos en caso de hallarlo justificado.

Los vapores, antes de salir para España, tocarán en los puertos de la Habana y Veracruz.

**LA ACTUAL POBLACIÓN DE CUBA.**

El último censo que se ha levantado fija la población de Cuba en 1,572,797 habitantes, cuya división por sexos es como sigue: 815,205 varones y 757,592 hembras. Blancos nacidos en Cuba, 447,372 varones y 462,926 hembras; negros, 111,898 varones y 122,740 hembras; mulatos, 125,500 varones y 145,305 hembras. El número de extranjeros es de 157,075, de los cuales 129,454 son varones y 26,621 hembras. Entre los extranjeros se cuentan 14,694 chinos varones y 163 hembras.

La población de la ciudad de la Habana es de 235,981.

**CONGRESO MÉDICO PAN-AMERICANO.**

La Comisión Ejecutiva Internacional del Congreso Médico Pan-Americano anuncia que la próxima reunión de dicho cuerpo se verificará en la Habana durante los días 26, 27, 28 y 29 del mes de diciembre de este año. Se espera que concurrirán á él mucho médicos de todas partes del Continente y es indudable que habrá muchos representantes de los Estados Unidos.

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**REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA.****NUEVO MINISTRO ACREDITADO EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.**

El 9 de este mes fué recibido por el Presidente de los Estados Unidos el nuevo Ministro de la República Dominicana, Señor Don FRANCISCO VÁZQUEZ. El Secretario de Estado, Señor HAY, presentó al distinguido diplomático.

Al poner en manos del Presidente sus credenciales, el Señor VÁZQUEZ manifestó que la misión especial que le había sido confiada por su Gobierno era una prueba más de los amistosos sentimientos de que está animado hacia el pueblo de los Estados Unidos y de sus deseos de hacer más estrechos, sobre sólidas bases comerciales, los lazos de fraternidad que felizmente han unido hasta ahora á las dos Repúblicas. Agregó el Señor Ministro que el hecho de que las producciones de ambos países son diferentes, y de que se encuentra tan cerca el uno del otro, hace creer á su Gobierno que sería mutuamente ventajosa la celebración de un tratado comercial que podría fortalecer más las buenas y cordiales relaciones que hasta ahora los han unido. Terminó su discurso el Señor VÁZQUEZ manifestando que el Señor Presidente de la República Dominicana le había encomendado que expresase al Presidente de los Estados Unidos sus más sinceros deseos por su felicidad personal y su admiración por la gran República del Norte. El Señor Ministro dijo que éstos eran también sus personales sentimientos.

La contestación del Señor Presidente McKINLEY fué muy cordial, y en ella manifestó al Señor VÁZQUEZ que le causaba verdadero placer recibir de sus manos la carta credencial del Señor Presidente de la República Dominicana, acreditándole en el carácter de Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario ante el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos. Dijo también que con gusto reconocía que la misión especial confiada al Señor VÁZQUEZ era una nueva prueba de la amistad que unía á las dos Repúblicas, y añadió que participaba de los mismos sentimientos del Gobierno dominicano en cuanto á hacer más estrechas y ventajosas las relaciones comerciales entre ambas Repúblicas. Concluyó el Presidente McKINLEY su discurso con estas palabras: “Os ruego que hagáis presente á Su Excelencia el Presidente de la República Dominicana mis mejores deseos, así como los del pueblo de los Estados Unidos, en pro de la prosperidad y bienestar del pueblo dominicano, y confío en que encontraréis agradable y provechosa vuestra permanencia aquí.”

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## EL SALVADOR.

### NUEVO MINISTRO ACREDITADO ANTE EL GOBIERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El día 4 del mes en curso el Presidente de los Estados Unidos recibió al Señor Dr. Don RAFAEL ZALDÍVAR como Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de El Salvador.

Es el Dr. ZALDÍVAR uno de los estadistas más notables de la América Central, y durante largo tiempo ha figurado en primera línea entre los hombres públicos de aquella sección del continente. Fué por varios años Presidente de la República de El Salvador.

Al poner en manos del Presidente McKINLEY la carta credencial autógrafa que le acredita en el mencionado carácter, el Dr. ZALDÍVAR pronunció el siguiente discurso:

#### DISCURSO DEL MINISTRO ZALDÍVAR.

“EXCELENTÍSIMO SEÑOR PRESIDENTE:

“Honroso y placentero es para mí saludar en vos al Presidente de la gran República Americana en el momento en que os he entregado las credenciales que me habilitan ante el Gobierno de Vuestra Excelencia, como Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario de El Salvador.

“Siendo grata costumbre diplomática la de cambiar en este acto algunas frases de cortesía y de amistad, permitidme, Señor Presidente, que yo lo haga en esta vez con todas las veras de un hombre honrado

y leal amigo de los Estados Unidos de América, para expresar el grande interés que toma mi Gobierno en conservar y estrechar, en fraterna reciprocidad, las buenas relaciones de paz, comercio y amistad que unen á mi país con este gran pueblo americano, cuyos constantes progresos en las ciencias y en las artes, aplicadas al desarrollo de la felicidad humana, causan la admiración de propios y de extraños. Cuidado mío muy especial será mantener esas relaciones de amistad en el mejor pie deseable, contando, como sé que puedo contar, con la lealtad absoluta de mi Gobierno y con la amable benevolencia y legendaria corrección de la cancillería que vos dirigis, acompañado de tan pleclaras inteligencias.

“Llamarán muy particularmente mi atención el ensanche y facilidades que demanda el creciente comercio entre nuestras dos Repúblicas. La paz, la deseada paz de la industria y de la actividad política y económica, parece asentada definitivamente en El Salvador, al amparo del Gobierno del Señor General Don TOMÁS REGALADO, reconocedor y garante del derecho de los asociados, y con esta paz la industria ha renacido y el comercio toma vuelo considerable. La lucha de nuestras nacionalidades es difícil y anhelosa. Vicios de educación, leyes de herencia y aun el mismo ambiente en que se vive, todo parece conspirar contra nosotros.

“El cambio de productos es el comienzo del cambio de las ideas, y con ideas nuevas y eficaces para la lucha moderna por la vida y el progreso, es como nosotros entendemos poder llegar á colocar nuestra República en condición de brillar modesta pero perennemente entre las buenas y mejores de sus hermanas de América. De allí nuestro deseo de proporcionar seguridad, seguridad ante todo, al capital extranjero, que va á nosotros en forma de brazos que labran la tierra, que explotan las minas ó crían los ganados, ó que llega allí en forma de géneros, herramientas y utensilios, ó en fin, que se traslada en especies sonantes, por medio de la letra de cambio, del expedito cheque y de la onza de oro, cuya fijeza de precio es garantía de las transacciones á plazo, es decir, garantía del crédito que es la moderna palanca de Arquímedes con que se mueve el mundo.

“En resolución, Señor Presidente, la República de El Salvador, á quien me cabe la honra de venir á representar ante Vuestra Excelencia y vuestro país, espera seguir derivando de sus buenas relaciones con los Estados Unidos de América, los bienes que una valiosa amistad puede proporcionar por la sola fuerza que las cosas grandes llevan en sí mismas. La República de El Salvador no teme sino que solicita con ahinco las grandes amistades. Allá en nuestro país estamos persuadidos, Señor Presidente, de que entre pueblos es más expresiva y verdadera la sentencia que la sabiduría puso en boca de un poeta inmortal: *‘L’amitié d’un grand homme est un bienfait des dieux.’*

El Presidente McKINLEY contestó al Ministro ZALDÍVAR en los siguientes términos:

“SEÑOR MINISTRO: Me causa verdadera complacencia daros la bienvenida á esta capital como Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotenciario, y recibir de vuestras manos la carta credencial autógrafa de Su Excelencia el Señor Presidente de la República de El Salvador, que os acredita en ese carácter.

“Satisfactorio es para mí saber que bajo el ilustrado Gobierno del General REGALADO El Salvador goza de paz y prosperidad, y espero que esta situación continuará para la felicidad y bienestar del pueblo salvadoreño.

“Razón tenéis, Señor Ministro, de contar con la amistosa disposición del Gobierno y pueblo de los Estados Unidos para hacer cuanto de ellos dependa en orden á fomentar y fortalecer más, si fuese posible, las cordiales relaciones que felizmente existen ahora entre nuestras dos Repúblicas. Grato me será cooperar con vos al logro de tan benéfico resultado.”

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## ESTADOS UNIDOS.

### COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

#### IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 1017 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina. tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de abril de 1900, comparada con la del mes correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los diez meses que terminaron en abril de 1900, comparados con igual período de 1899. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Departamento de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión; de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de abril, por ejemplo, no se publican hasta en junio.

#### ESTADO DE LA AGRICULTURA.

Según el informe mensual publicado por la Oficina de Estadística de la Secretaría de Agricultura, había el 1° de este mes 24,908,000 acres de terreno sembrados de trigo chamorro, es decir, 5,240,000 acres menos que había sembrados en el pasado otoño. La condición del trigo chamorro el 1° del corriente mes era 82.7, contra 90.8 para igual fecha de 1898 y 80.7 que durante diez años había sido el promedio alcanzado.

Los informes preliminares remitidos á la referida Oficina de Estadística acusan una reducción de 567,000 acres en los terrenos sembrados de trigo de primavera, es decir, un 2.9 por ciento de los mismos.

La condición del trigo de primavera el 1° de junio era de 87.3, contra 91.4 en la misma fecha de 1899 y 93 que fué el promedio durante diez años.

Los terrenos sembrados de avena en la fecha indicada eran un 3.9 por ciento más que en 1899. La condición de los sembrados de avena es de 91.7, contra 88.7 el 1 de junio de 1899 y 89.8 que fué el promedio durante diez años.

El área sembrada de cebada es seis décimos de uno por ciento mayor que en 1899. El promedio de la condición de este cereal es 82.2, contra 91.4 el 1 de junio de 1899 y 88.5 que ha sido el promedio durante diez años.

El área sembrada de centeno es 4.1 por ciento menor que en 1899, y el promedio de la condición de este grano es 87.6, contra 84.5 el 1 de junio de 1899 y 89.9 que ha sido el promedio durante diez años.

El promedio de la condición del trébol no puede determinarse de una manera exacta.

En cuanto á los melocotones y manzanas los informes recibidos son en extremo favorables.

#### COMERCIO EN ABRIL DE 1900.

En el mes de abril del año en curso las exportaciones han sido mucho mayores que las importaciones. El exceso fué de \$43,472,588. La exportación total representó un aumento sobre la del mismo mes del año anterior de \$30,000,000. Las importaciones aumentaron en algo más de \$10,000,000. Las cifras correspondientes á los diez meses del año económico que terminaron en abril de 1900 muestran de una manera admirable lo que es el tráfico de los Estados Unidos. Las exportaciones de mercancías durante los mencionados meses alcanzaron un valor de \$1,172,749,430, lo cual es un aumento de \$135,961,602 sobre las exportaciones durante el mismo período del año precedente. Las importaciones en los últimos diez meses han sido por valor de \$717,241,466, ó sea un aumento de \$152,010,659 sobre las de los diez meses correspondientes del año anterior. Según los datos estadísticos, las importaciones durante el mes de abril representaron un valor de \$75,466,664 de cuya cantidad \$33,445,027 fueron libres de derechos. El valor total de las exportaciones fué como sigue:

##### Productos:

Agrícolas .....	\$68,892,977
Manufacturados .....	39,424,269
De las minas .....	3,124,668
De los bosques .....	4,413,605
De la pesca .....	293,280
Misceláneos .....	336,326



### UN AÑO DE PROSPERIDAD.

El 1900 está resultando ser un año de suma prosperidad para los Estados Unidos. El valor de las exportaciones durante los diez meses transcurridos del presente año económico ha sido por valor de \$1,172,736,685. ó sea un aumento de cerca de \$136,000,000 sobre el de las que se hicieron en igual fecha del año pasado. El aumento en las importaciones fué de \$152,000,000. Si los dos meses que todavía faltan para completar el actual año económico resultan tan prolíjos en beneficios como los diez meses ya transcurridos, el valor total de las exportaciones é importaciones para el año entero habrá de ser sorprendentemente mayor que el de cualquiera de los años anteriores.

### CALZADO AMERICANO EN EL EXTRANJERO.

Muy notable es el desarrollo que se ha notado últimamente en el tráfico de calzado de los Estados Unidos. Gracias á la perfección que ha alcanzado la maquinaria americana para esta clase de trabajo, el calzado de los Estados Unidos se ha dado á conocer en todo el mundo por su buena forma, comodidad y módico precio. El aumento que este tráfico ha tenido se ve por las cantidades exportadas en los primeros nueve meses del presente año económico, que tuvieron un valor de \$3,027,440, contra \$1,702,681 en el período correspondiente del año anterior. El mercado principal es la Gran Bretaña con sus colonias, pero el comercio se está extendiendo rápidamente á la Europa continental. El periódico "Shoe and Leather Reporter" habla del buen éxito que han tenido los esfuerzos de los fabricantes americanos para vender calzado directamente á los consumidores europeos. Ya en muchos países están tratando de imitar el calzado de los Estados Unidos.

### AUMENTO NOTABLE EN EL COMERCIO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS CON EL ORIENTE.

Se calcula que al terminarse el presente año el valor total de las exportaciones de los Estados Unidos al Asia y Oceanía habrá alcanzado á la suma de \$100,000,000, es decir, cuatro veces más de lo que fué en el año de 1893. Las importaciones, á su vez, han aumentado prodigiosamente. El azúcar procedente de la India, Hawai y las Filipinas es el producto cuya importación ha tenido mayor aumento. La mitad del azúcar importada en el mes de marzo á los Estados Unidos procedió de esos países. Las Filipinas contribuyeron á ese total con 49,490,542 libras.

Los artículos cuyas importaciones han aumentado de modo notable durante los últimos tiempos son el algodón, las provisiones y las manufacturas. También han crecido notablemente las exportaciones para esos países de implementos agrícolas, maquinaria y artículos de ferretería.

**LA INDUSTRIA DE PESCADO SALADO.**

La salazón del pescado para la alimentación es una industria que data de tiempo inmemorial, conociéndose en los Estados Unidos desde la época de la colonización, constituyendo desde entonces una de las principales industrias del país.

Según la "Gaceta de Pesquería," la demanda de pescado salado ha decaído mucho en los Estados Unidos, debido, indudablemente, al desarrollo que han tenido los depositos de pescado fresco. Es ahora uno de los productos principales de exportación.

Entre las variedades de pescados que se emplean en la salazón para alimento, se hallan el bacalao, el escombro, el arenque, el sábalo, la trucha, la merluza, el mero, la falsa pescadilla y otros, que se encuentran en abundancia en las aguas del Océano Atlántico del norte.

La cantidad de pescado salado en 1898 fué, aproximadamente, de 50,000,000 de libras.

Á este respecto el "Boletín de la Sociedad de Fomento Fabril," de Santiago de Chile, dice en su número correspondiente al 31 de marzo próximo pasado, lo siguiente:

"El valor del producto de la pesca en 1870 fué de \$11,000,000. Diez años más tarde el valor era de \$44,546,000, y hoy día este producto se estima en más de \$100,000,000. En 1890 la flotilla de pesca se componía de 6,605 embarcaciones de alta mar y de 44,804 costaneras. El número de pescadores era de 131,426 y el capital invertido en la industria se estimaba en \$37,955,349. El puerto de Boston es uno de los centros principales para la venta de pescado al por mayor. Se calcula en 11,180,259 libras esterlinas el valor de las transacciones en ese artículo hechas ahí en 1889. En 1892 más de 90,000,000 de libras de pescado fresco pasaron por las manos de los comerciantes de Boston. En las costas de California y Alaska la industria del salmón ha llegado á ser una de las más importantes y productivas de esas regiones. En 1889 la pesca y preparación del salmón en conserva daba ocupación á 66 buques y 36 fábricas, representando un capital de \$4,000,000. Últimamente se ha fundado en California otra sociedad con un capital de 20,000,000 de francos para la preparación del salmón en conserva.

"El notable incremento de la pesca en los Estados Unidos se debe, en primer lugar, al desarrollo que al mismo tiempo se daba en el país á las vías férreas, facilitándose así la venta del pescado fresco en pueblos distantes mil ó más millas del mar, á precios mucho más bajos que la carne. No han influido menos las mejoras efectuadas en los métodos de conservación y transporte del pescado. En los Estados Unidos todos los ferrocarriles están equipados con carros refrigeradores, y gran parte de las embarcaciones de pesca cuentan también con cámaras refrigeradoras que les permiten traer á la costa desde las

más lejanas pesquerías un cargamento abundante y en buen estado de consumo. La introducción de elementos modernos en el ejercicio de la pesca, la apertura de nuevos puertos de recalada, la multiplicación de los faros y de estaciones salvavidas, juntamente con un extenso y bien servido sistema de anuncios meteorológicos, hubo de influir asimismo, como era natural, para que la industria de la pesca continuara en su desarrollo y progreso sin dificultades ni tropiezos.

“Corresponde también no poca parte en tan útil empeño á la labor inteligente de diversas sociedades fundadas en varios de los estados de la Unión americana con el objeto de dirigir y estimular el progreso de la pesca, en cuyo bienestar muchos de sus miembros se hallan directamente interesados. Como complemento á las medidas de protección y estímulo oficial que hemos citado, mencionaremos la fundación, en 1871, de la Comisión de Pesca de los Estados Unidos (the United States Fish Commission). Creado este servicio para la investigación científica de todo lo relacionado con la piscicultura, dedicóse especialmente á estudiar la manera de repoblar las aguas empobrecidas de peces por el gran desarrollo de la explotación, y al efecto, cuenta hoy día con elementos para incubar artificialmente 500,000,000 de huevos.”

#### DESARROLLO DE LA INDUSTRIA DE HIERRO Y ACERO.

El “Times,” de Londres, ha publicado algunos artículos muy notables, en los que se encuentran datos de sumo interés relativos á la industria de hierro y de acero en los Estados Unidos.

Al ocuparse de la producción de acero en este país hace mención de la Carnegie Steel Company. Limited, que se encuentra en la ciudad de Pittsburg, estado de Pennsylvania, calificando sus fundiciones como las mayores que existen en el mundo. Agrega que sería muy difícil hacer una relación de los colosales intereses y propiedades de dicha compañía, así como de su producción extraordinaria, que calcula en unos 2,200,000 toneladas de acero de diversas clases, anualmente.

Son tres los principales establecimientos de fundición, y cada uno de ellos, según el citado diario, es mayor que cualquiera de los que existen en Inglaterra, siendo inmensa la producción de sus hornos.

Después de hacer una descripción detallada de las referidas fundiciones, pone de realce la calidad del mineral de hierro de los Estados Unidos, á la que califica de superior á cualquiera otra, describiendo, además, el método que se sigue en su transportación desde las costas del lago Superior hasta la ciudad de Pittsburg, entre cuyos puntos hay una distancia de mil millas, aproximadamente.

La extracción del mineral de los elevados depósitos donde se encuentra y su colocación á bordo de los buques que han de conducirlo parece una operación bien sencilla; sin embargo, si se quiere obtener alguna ganancia es preciso emplear el mayor cuidado y discreción.

En esta operación los ingenieros mecánicos de los Estados Unidos han demostrado mucha habilidad. Hace observar las grandes dificultades que ha habido que vencer para poder hacer dicha transportación y elogia en altos términos el admirable sistema empleado por los americanos, que difiere esencialmente del que se emplea en Europa. Á este respecto el "Times" se expresa de la siguiente manera: "La habilidad y energía que han desplegado los americanos para vencer los obstáculos que se les ofrecían á fin de poner su industria de acero en condición de poder competir con la nuestra en los mercados del mundo, son dignas del mayor elogio y admiración."

Refiriéndose al mineral que se beneficia en las fundiciones de Gales del Sur que procede de las montañas de Vizcaya, en España, dice el "Times" que á causa de su dureza no es posible hacer uso de palas mecánicas en su extracción, como se hace en las minas situadas en las inmediaciones del lago Superior.

En la fabricación de acero para construcciones, los americanos han hecho extraordinarios progresos. El gran número de millas de ferrocarriles que se construyen todos los años en los Estados Unidos exigen numerosos puentes, y este hecho es suficiente para dar impulso á la producción de acero.

El citado periódico dedica considerable espacio á los grandes edificios de acero que se construyen en los Estados Unidos, así como á las otras fundiciones notables además de la de Carnegie.

Es evidente que en Inglaterra reconocen y hasta temen la competencia que el acero americano está haciendo ya al acero inglés en los mercados del mundo.

#### **PRODUCCIÓN DE NARANJAS SIN SEMILLAS.**

En el estado de California se producen anualmente millares de cajas de naranjas sin semillas. Esta clase de naranja fué introducida por primera vez en los Estados Unidos por Mr. WILLIAM F. JUDSON en 1872. Era él en aquella época Cónsul de esta país en Bahía, Brasil, y allí tuvo noticia de que como 60 millas al interior, en una de las riberas del Amazonas, se daban naranjas que no tenían semillas. Pronto obtuvo algunas de estas frutas, así como retoños de los árboles, los cuales remitió al Departamento de Agricultura en Wáshington. Al principio dichos retoños no llamaron mucho la atención, y al año siguiente solo quedaban cuatro que fueron enviados á Mr. HORATIO TIBBETTS, de California, que los había pedido al Departamento para hacer con ellos experimentos. Al cabo de cinco años de haber sido sembrados, produjeron una cosecha de 16 naranjas, y los agricultores llegaron á dudar mucho de que el resultado final fuera satisfactorio, especialmente en cuanto á la calidad de la fruta. La segunda cosecha fué de una caja de naranjas de superior calidad. Por dos años Mr. TIBBETTS continuó sus experimentos con muy poco éxito, y por último

resolvió injertar ramas del naranjo sin semillas en troncos del naranjo ordinario.

Entonces se vió que el injerto se desarrollaba perfectamente, convirtiéndose en rama del árbol primitivo, que luego debía producir solamente naranjas sin semilla, una vez que se le había despojado de todas sus otras ramas. Hay en California plantaciones de naranjas sin semillas que han producido un beneficio neto de 250 á 300 pesos por acre durante varios años. La ciudad de Riverside, que era en época no lejana una pequeña aldea, cuenta hoy con una población de 14,000 habitantes. Está situada en la región que produce mayor número de naranjas en el mundo, pues salen de ella cada año, por término medio, 1,600,000 cajas de naranjas. Los habitantes de esta población están deseosos de que los dos naranjos primitivos, que fueron la fuente de la prosperidad de la localidad, y á los cuales se debió la fundación de la ciudad, sean colocados en algún parque público y debidamente protegidos, para que sirvan como una lección objetiva á las futuras generaciones.

#### INSTALACIONES ELÉCTRICAS DEL NIÁGARA.

“La América Científica é Industrial,” edición española del “Scientific American,” publica en su número correspondiente al mes de junio un artículo sobre las instalaciones eléctricas del Niágara, del cual se ha tomado lo siguiente:

“El Niágara es un río que forma parte de los linderos que separan al estado de Nueva York de la provincia canalense de Ontario. Nace en el extremo oriental del lago Erie. Se dirige casi hacia el norte, y después de una marcha de 35 millas, entra en el lago Ontario, tomando en esa distancia un declive que en su totalidad es de 334 pies. Encierra varias islas, de las cuales la mayor es la llamada Grand Island, que tiene cerca de 10 millas de largo por 6 de ancho. Como á cuatro millas más abajo de esa isla está la Catarata del Niágara, la más célebre del mundo, donde Goat Island (la Isla de la Cabra), con su longitud de media milla, divide el río en dos distintos saltos. Uno de ellos, el más voluminoso, se precipita hacia el lado del Canadá, formando la magnífica caída en figura de herradura que, medida perpendicularmente, tiene una elevación de 158 pies. La del salto americano mide 167 pies de alto. La parte del río comprendida entre Goat Island y el Canadá tiene unas 600 yardas de ancho.

“Debajo de la Catarata el río sigue su curso en una garganta formada de rocas perpendiculares que tienen casi 250 pies de alto, y que forman un canal aterrador, cuyas sinuosidades varían en ancho desde 400 á 1,200 pies. Entre la Catarata y Lewistown, distancia que solo es de 6 á 7 millas, la caída del río es de 104 pies. Un magnífico puente de suspensión, ó colgante, de 800 pies de largo en la parte central y de 1,140 de un extremo á otro, sirve para enlazar la vía férrea de una

ribera á otra del río, como á una milla más abajo de la Catarata, desde donde hay de esta una magnífica vista. Los geólogos están ya de acuerdo en creer que la Catarata se hallaba á 6 millas más cerca del lago Ontario de lo que está actualmente.

“Por cuatro siglos solo servía de inspiración á los poetas y de pasatiempo á los turistas que de todas partes acudían á admirar su belleza. Desde hace unos diez años los ingenieros nacionales han utilizado parte de su fuerza, constituyendo su obra un verdadero episodio del progreso económico é industrial de nuestra época. Se ha calculado que la asombrosa cascada da 100,000,000 de toneladas de agua por hora, que corresponde á una fuerza motriz de 16,000,000 de caballos de vapor. Ese número representa un equivalente de 48,000,000 de caballos de carne y hueso. Como dice un autor francés, los ingenieros americanos empezaron por poner en las ‘Cuadras Hidráulicas’ solo 50,000 caballos de tan asombrosa caballería, sirviendo de diez turbinas de la fuerza de 5,000 caballos cada una. Esas turbinas hacen girar con la velocidad angular normal de 250 revoluciones por minuto máquinas eléctricas llamadas ‘Alternadores,’ que distribuyen la corriente eléctrica en un radio de más de 5 kilómetros. En el mes de setiembre de 1895 funcionaban ya tres turbinas y dos dinamos del calibre mencionado.”

#### MANUFACTURAS DE TEJIDOS EN EL SUR.

El desarrollo de empresas industriales en los estados del Sur durante la última década ha sido fenomenal. Esta sección del país había sido mirada únicamente como el centro principal de la producción de algodón en el mundo entero, pero hoy sus fábricas le dan también un lugar prominente. En un artículo por J. A. STEWART, que fué publicado en el “Scientific American” correspondiente al 26 de mayo próximo pasado, se asegura que fuera de Massachusetts ningún estado supera á la Carolina del Norte en cuanto al número de sus fábricas de tejidos. En Georgia y Alabama se está dando también gran impulso á esta clase de industria.

Existen en el Sur dos condiciones ventajosas para la fabricación de géneros de algodón, á saber: que la materia prima se produce allí mismo y que el trabajo es barato. Numerosas y grandes fábricas se están erigiendo con la mayor rapidez posible. Se calcula que el aumento en el precio del algodón, que es como de 10 centavos por libra, ha agregado cerca de \$200,000,000 á la riqueza del Sur en una sola estación, y los capitalistas de aquella parte de los Estados Unidos están invirtiendo su dinero en la fundación de nuevas fábricas. Como una prueba del gran desarrollo que ha tenido la fabricación de tejidos de algodón en los estados del Sur, se pueden mencionar los hechos siguientes: En 1891-92 se consumieron en los telares de aquella sección del país 686,080 pacas de algodón. En 1894-95 la cantidad ascendió á 862,838, y en 1898-99 á 1,413,928 pacas. El aumento en la

manufactura de géneros de algodón exige también aumento en la producción de la materia prima, y se cree que los estados del Sur pueden fácilmente producir una cantidad de algodón dos veces mayor que la que ahora producen.

### **LAS INDUSTRIAS DE BORAX.**

Se consumen anualmente en los Estados Unidos 12,000 toneladas de borax, según el "Scientific American." Antes de 1864 este artículo se importaba de Europa, pero en ese año los depósitos de California, que habían sido descubiertos en 1856, produjeron 24,304 libras que se vendieron á 39 centavos cada una. Con el aumento de la producción los precios bajaron, y así fué que en 1872, cuando se descubrieron los yacimientos de Nevada, la libra se vendió á 32 centavos. La producción en aquel año ascendió á 280,000 libras. En 1873 se extrajeron de los depósitos de Nevada y de los del condado de San Bernardino, que acababan de ser descubiertos, 3,000,000 de libras, lo cual hizo descender el precio de la libra á  $24\frac{1}{2}$  centavos. En el año siguiente la producción fué doble, y el precio bajó á  $14\frac{1}{2}$  centavos. Desde aquella época la producción siguió aumentando, con algunas interrupciones, hasta 1899, año en que llegó al máximum y en que el precio no pasó de 7 centavos la libra. En 1887 el borax se vendió más barato que en ningún otro año,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  centavos por libra. Los altos precios que prevalecieron en 1872 fueron causa de que se descubrieran y explotaran muchos yacimientos.

Los más grandes de todos existen en "Death Valley," ó Valle de la Muerte. Esta región presentaba muchos obstáculos para la explotación de las minas, y quedaba lejos de las líneas férreas, lo cual dificultaba la transportación del borax, pero desde luego se vió que su riqueza era tan grande que debía mirársela como la fuente principal de dicho artículo en los Estados Unidos. Al principio el borax se extraía disolviendo en agua borato de cal crudo; luego se calentaba el líquido, hecho lo cual se le retiraba, mientras que el borato se iba cristalizando en el fondo del receptáculo. La distancia desde los depósitos del Valle de la Muerte hasta la más inmediata de las vías férreas era de 165 millas, que era preciso atravesar en carros tirados por caballerías. Algunos de estos vehículos eran enormes, y llevaban hasta 20,000 libras de carga. Se necesitaban 24 caballos para tirarlos.

Esto hacía muy costosa la explotación del borato, y la industria habría sufrido mucho si no se hubieran descubierto los vastos depósitos de borato de cal en las montañas Cállico, los cuales pueden producir toda la cantidad que se necesite. Con el descubrimiento de estos nuevos yacimientos, se inició una nueva era en la extracción del borax, siguiéndose un método parecido al que se emplea en el beneficio de cuarzos. Las minas de Cállico producen 2,000 toneladas al mes. La compañía que las explota posee un ferrocarril de 11 millas de largo,

por medio del cual se lleva el producto á Daggett, de donde pasa á San Francisco. Se emplean en dichas minas de 1,000 á 1,600 trabajadores. Los usos á que el borax se aplica aumentan cada día más y más, y su consumo tiene necesariamente que ir creciendo.

### EL VALLE DE LA MUERTE EN CALIFORNIA.

Nada hay en California que llame la atención del viajero tanto como el Valle de la Muerte, que mide 75 millas de largo y 8 de ancho en su parte más angosta. Está situado en una extremidad del condado de Inyo, entre las montañas de Panamint y la Cordillera Funeral. Se supone que este valle es el lecho de un antiguo río. Su parte más profunda queda á 200 pies bajo el nivel del mar. Fué descubierta esta región en 1850 por una partida de inmigrantes, muchos de los cuales perecieron al tratar de atravesarla. Debe su nombre á las innumerables tragedias de que ha sido teatro. La noticia de que existían allí ricos depósitos de oro y plata atrajo durante largo tiempo á muchos espíritus aventureros. Incalculable es el número de los que sucumbieron bajo la influencia de aquel calor indescriptible y en las agonías de la sed. La temperatura, que en el invierno suele ser muy fría, se eleva en el verano á 137° F. á la sombra, y permanece así durante semanas enteras. Acontece á veces que por un mes ó más el termómetro F. no baja de 100° ni durante la noche. El Valle de la Muerte es el paraje más caliente del hemisferio occidental. Toda clase de vegetación desaparece bajo aquella atmósfera de fuego.

Los vientos que prevalecen en el valle son, según el "Scientific American," los del oeste, y aunque vienen saturados de la humedad que reina en la costa del Pacífico, cuando llegan al Death Valley, queman como aire escapado de un horno de fundición, y ningún ser viviente puede soportar su efecto. Hasta las aves indígenas de aquella región, afirma el citado periódico, perecen. Es en la época de fuertes calores cuando las tempestades de arena son más terribles, y afirma el "Scientific American" que entonces no se puede permanecer una hora sin beber agua, so pena de la vida, y que la carne se corrompe en el espacio de una hora. Hay en el valle varios depósitos de borax en la forma de pantanos, situados en los parajes más bajos del mismo.

### BOSQUES DE PALO ROJO EN CALIFORNIA.

El palo rojo (*Sequoia sempervirens*) se encuentra solamente en una estrecha faja de territorio, cerca de la costa del Pacífico de los Estados Unidos, que se extiende desde el límite meridional del estado de Oregón hasta las inmediaciones de la bahía de San Francisco. Los mas desarrollados de estos árboles se encuentran en el condado de Humboldt, en el estado de California. Los bosques que existen en los



condados de Mendocino y Sonoma no son tan espesos ni producen tan buena madera. Los bosques más espesos y de mejor madera se encuentran en los valles. Los árboles son todos muy viejos, pues los más nuevos de entre ellos, que se encuentran en la parte norte de la mencionada faja, cuentan centenares de años de edad. Últimamente el Congreso de los Estados Unidos emitió una ley con el objeto de proteger los mejores de estos bosques, que son, probablemente, los más densos que existen sobre la faz de la tierra. Mr. HENRY GANNETT, miembro de la Oficina de Estudios Geológicos de los Estados Unidos, dice que la densidad de dichos bosques no se debe solamente al tamaño de los árboles, por más que son muy grandes, sino al gran número de ellos que se encuentra en una extensión dada de terreno, y á la proximidad á que quedan unos de otros.

En estos bosques nunca penetra el sol. La extensión de la faja donde existen ha sido cuidadosamente medida, y es como de 2,000 millas cuadradas. Se calcula que la cantidad de madera que podría sacarse de ellos es como sigue:

	Pies.
Condado del Norte .....	4, 000, 000, 000
Condado de Humboldt .....	42, 000, 000, 000
Condado de Mendocino.....	28, 160, 000, 000
Condado de Sonoma.....	1, 000, 000, 000

La cantidad anualmente cortada por los aserraderos es de 250,000,000 de pies, por lo menos. El palo rojo se usa mucho en California en la construcción de casas. Se le exporta hacia el norte hasta Alaska, y hacia el sur hasta Valparaiso, Chile. También se le envía á los mercados del Japón y de Australia.

#### MOLINOS DE VIENTO.

Llegan á un millón los molinos de viento que hay en uso en los Estados Unidos, calculándose que aumente en 50 cada año. Las aplicaciones que generalmente se hacen del molino de viento son: á hacer funcionar las bombas de sacar agua (objeto principal á que se destinan) y á impulsar este líquido á cierta altura ó á determinada distancia, ya sea para acopiarla para usos domésticos, ó para irrigar las tierras áridas.

Los molinos de viento están ya reemplazando la fuerza animal en las faenas del campo, empleándose en el corte de madera y de forraje, en la manufactura de mantequilla y en la molienda de granos. La acumulación de la fuerza eléctrica será, en lo sucesivo, la aplicación más importante que se le dará á los molinos de viento.

Uno de los ejemplos más notables de las aplicaciones que se han citado, es el de un molino con una rueda de 15 pies de diámetro, por medio del cual se ha logrado moler 20 barriles de maíz en una hora. Hay otro cuya rueda es solo de 10 pies de diámetro, que eleva á una altura de 70 pies, 1,000 galones de agua al día.

### RECONSTRUCCIÓN DE LA MARINA MERCANTE.

El impulso que se está dando á las construcciones navales en la actualidad indica que no está muy lejano el día en que la marina mercante americana vuelva á ocupar en el mundo el lugar que antes tenía.

Al tratar de este asunto hace mención el "Scientific American," en su número correspondiente al 5 de mayo próximo pasado, de los dos magníficos vapores que los Señores WILLIAM CRAMP & SONS están construyendo en sus astilleros de Filadelfia para la "Red Star Line," que hace el servicio entre Nueva York y Amberes. Cada uno de dichos barcos tendrá un porte de 12,000 toneladas y podrá llevar 1,300 pasajeros de todas clases.

También se están construyendo en los mismos astilleros dos vapores de 10,000 toneladas para la "American Line," que hace la carrera entre Filadelfia y Liverpool, y otros tres para la "New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company." Uno de éstos, el *Morro Castle*, será de 6,000 toneladas, y andará á razón de 18 millas por hora.

La "Oceanic Steamship Company" ha ordenado la construcción en los mencionados astilleros de tres hermosos vapores para su servicio en el Pacífico. Serán barcos de acero de primera calidad.

### MODO DE EMPACAR EL CAFÉ PARA EL TRÁFICO.

La manera como los comerciantes de comestibles empacan éstos ha sido empleada con el mejor éxito en el café. Entre los artículos que se venden empacados en esta forma, el café ocupa el segundo lugar, pues viene inmediatamente después de los cereales. Se calcula que como la cuarta parte del café que se consume en los Estados Unidos se vende en esta forma. En 1868, cuando por primera vez se introdujo este sistema de empacarlo, se vendieron solamente unos pocos millares de paquetes, y en 1899 la cantidad vendida ascendió á 170.000,000 de libras.

El procedimiento más importante en la preparación del café en la forma indicada es darle, después de tostado, un baño con un líquido compuesto de gelatina, musgo irlandés, colapiz, azúcar y huevos, á fin de preservar el aroma. Además de esto, el baño agrega al peso del café un 5 ó 10 por ciento, con lo cual se reduce la pérdida ocasionada por la tostadura. Los paquetes son forrados y cerrados de tal modo, que el café queda completamente al abrigo de la acción del aire. El peso de estos paquetes es de una á cinco libras y su precio varia de 8½ centavos á 35 centavos la libra, según la calidad del grano. En los distritos fabriles y agrícolas del Oeste la venta de este café es enorme. En la preparación de los paquetes se emplea generalmente maquinaria.

**DERECHOS DE TONELAJE Y LEYES DE NAVEGACIÓN PARA HAWAI.**

El 3 de mayo del año en curso, la Oficina de Navegación de los Estados Unidos publicó una circular en la cual se dice, que del 14 de junio de 1900 en adelante los buques que vengan á los Estados Unidos procedentes del territorio del Hawai y los que vayan á dicho territorio de los Estados Unidos quedarán exentos del pago de derecho de tonelaje. Los buques que entren á los puertos de Hawai procedentes de otros países, que no sean los Estados Unidos, del 14 de junio de 1900 en adelante, pagarán los derechos de tonelaje impuestos por las leyes de los Estados Unidos.

Otra circular prohíbe que se hagan pagos adelantados á los marineros en los viajes entre los puertos del Pacífico de los Estados Unidos y los puertos del Hawai. Adelantos que no excedan de la cantidad que se les paga como sueldo mensual, podrán hacerse á los marineros en los viajes de Hawai á los puertos del Atlántico de los Estados Unidos, y vice versa.

Otra circular, de la misma fecha, hace referencia á los buques, sus dueños, las leyes de cuarentena, etc. Esto es simplemente una aplicación al Hawai de las leyes de navegación de los Estados Unidos.

Según la ley de 30 de abril de 1900, por medio de la cual el Congreso de los Estados Unidos estableció el territorio del Hawai, todas las islas forman un solo distrito aduanero, con puertos de entrada en Honolulu, Hilo, Mahukona y Kahului.

**INDUSTRIA DE TABACO EN RAMA.**

De todas las cosechas de los Estados Unidos la de tabaco es la que produce mayores entradas al Gobierno. Los Estados donde se produce la mayor cantidad de este artículo son: Virginia, Kentucky y Tennessee. La cosecha anual de los Estados Unidos asciende como á 500,000,000 de libras. Durante los últimos treinta años el Gobierno ha recibido más de \$1,000,000,000 en la forma de impuestos sobre el tabaco. Generalmente hablando, se reconocen cuatro clases distintas de tabaco.

No existen grandes plantaciones de tabaco en los Estados Unidos, y la mayor parte de este artículo es producido en campos de poca extensión. Su cultivo es bastante costoso y requiere esmerada atención. La planta crece á una altura de 3 ó 4 pies, y su mayor enemigo es el insecto conocido en este país con el nombre de "tobacco worm," pues uno solo de ellos puede destruir en una noche una hoja de tabaco. Las cuatro clases de tabaco atrás mencionadas son las conocidas con los siguientes nombres: "shipping leaf," de Tennessee; "seedleaf," que crece en el valle de Connecticut, en Pennsylvania y

en algunas partes de Ohio; "bright leaf," peculiar á Virginia y á la Carolina del Norte, y el famoso "white burley," de Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee y Missouri.

### INSECTO DESTRUCTOR DE LA NARANJA.

Como prueba del valioso trabajo que han hecho el Departamento Nacional de Agricultura y el del estado de California, y lo mucho que éstos han contribuido á organizar é instruir á los hacendados y agricultores, se puede citar un anuncio que apareció en el periódico "California Fruit World" solicitando cantidades del insecto destructor de la naranja. Este insecto, conocido con el nombre de "orange fruit scale" amenazó destruir hace algunos años la industria de frutas de California, y el Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, así como la Junta de Agricultura del Estado, buscaron otro insecto que fuera capaz de destruir al que tanto perjuicio estaba ocasionando. Se encontró lo que se buscaba en el *Vedalia cardinalis*, que fué introducido al Estado en considerables cantidades, las cuales fueron distribuidas en las plantaciones donde el "orange fruit scale" estaba causando grades perjuicios.

El ya citado anuncio del "Fruit World" provenía del secretario de la Junta de Horticultura del Estado, y en él manifestaba que había llegado á su noticia que en algunas partes de California los árboles estaban todavía amenazados por el destructor insecto, y expresaba el deseo de saber en qué localidades ocurría aquello. El objeto de la Junta de Horticultura al hacer esta investigación no era otro que el de proveerse de suficiente cantidad de "orange fruit scale" para alimentar al *Vedalia cardinalis*. La junta prometía á aquellos agricultores que le enviaran ramas de árboles atacadas del mencionado insecto, distribuir cantidades del *Vedalia cardinalis* dondequiera que fuera necesario.

### COMERCIÓ ENTRE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS Y MÉXICO.

Los Estados Unidos importaron de México en el mes de septiembre 869,623 libras de café con un valor de \$82,929. El valor del henequén que se importó en igual fecha fué de \$877,762, ó sea 400 por ciento más del que se importó en igual fecha del año anterior. El valor de las importaciones de naranjas fué de \$6,000, y el del hule \$6,000. El peso de los cueros importados de México fué de 840,000 libras.

México importó \$28,335 en instrumentos de labranza de manufactura americana, contra \$17,390 que se importaron en septiembre del año anterior. También se importaron de los Estados Unidos 6,000 toneladas de carbón, con un valor de \$108,000; \$12,378 de algodón en rama; varias clases de géneros de algodón por valor de \$51,038; y efectos manufacturados de algodón por valor de \$38,636. El valor de los aparatos eléctricos y científicos que se importaron en México de los

Estados Unidos fué de \$31,328. En las importaciones de efectos de metal para construcción hubo en el mes de septiembre un aumento de 50 por ciento sobre las del mismo mes del año anterior.

(De "El Progreso de México," abril 20, 1900, página 448.)

#### COMERCIO CON ALEMANIA.

Asegura el "Public Ledger," de Filadelfia, que las exportaciones de los Estados Unidos á Alemania durante los nueve meses del presente año económico, que terminaron en marzo próximo pasado, fueron por valor de \$142,781,489, contra \$123,222,617 correspondientes á los mismos meses del año pasado. Hubo una disminución de 15 por ciento en la cantidad de provisiones exportadas, pero en casi todos los otros artículos se notó considerable aumento, siendo dignos de mencionarse los siguientes: algodón, maíz, harina, frutas, aceite de semilla de algodón, tabaco, carbón, cobre, aceite para alumbrado, instrumentos de agricultura, eléctricos y científicos, relojes, ferretería, máquinas de coser, calzado y otros muchos. En 1895 solamente se exportaron de este país á Alemania mercaderías por valor de \$72,894,650, pero de año en año la exportación ha venido aumentando de una manera notable, como se ve por la cifra correspondiente á los primeros nueve meses del presente año económico.

#### INDUSTRIA DE PULPA DE MADERA PARA LA FABRICACIÓN DE PAPEL EN EL ESTADO DE MAINE.

Una de las industrias más florecientes en el Estado de Maine es la de la fabricación de papel de pulpa de madera. Se calcula en 1,800 toneladas la producción diaria de pulpa y papel de los treinta establecimientos que existen para este objeto. Á consecuencia del impulso tan grande que se le da á dicha industria, se espera que en muy corto tiempo la producción total de dichos establecimientos llegará á 2,500 toneladas diarias.

Se considera tan esencial para el buen éxito de esta industria un uso discreto de los bosques, que las principales compañías manufactureras de la pulpa mencionada han adoptado reglamentos muy estrictos en lo relativo al corte de los árboles.

#### IMPORTACIONES DE CAFÉ Y AZÚCAR EN SAN FRANCISCO.

El año pasado, durante los meses de enero, febrero y marzo, se importaron en San Francisco de California 8,490,737 libras de café, con un valor de \$918,424. Las importaciones hechas este año durante los mismos tres meses fueron de 10,551,233 libras, cuyo valor fué de \$1,167,098. Las procedencias de esta café y la cantidad correspondiente á cada una son las siguientes: de las repúblicas de Centro América, 9,848,432 libras; de México, 502,733 libras; de los países de Sud América, 101,250 libras; del Hawai, 18,400 libras; de la India, 45,288 libras; y de la China, 35,050 libras.

Las importaciones de azúcar que se hicieron durante los expresados tres meses del corriente año consistieron en 961,320 libras, procedentes de Centro América, y 315,000 de México.

### IMPORTACIÓN DE PRODUCTOS TROPICALES.

Asegura el "Public Ledger," de Filadelfia, que los Estados Unidos pagan \$1,000,000 diariamente por los productos tropicales que consumen, y que la mayor parte de éstos se dan ó podrían darse en las islas que á consecuencia de la última guerra han entrado en relaciones estrechas con este país. Dice el mencionado diario que, según datos oficiales, se han importado en los Estados Unidos de los países tropicales productos por valor de más de \$300,000,000. Los principales de estos artículos son: goma elástica, fibras, seda en rama, maderas de ebanistería, añil, palos de tinte, etc. La goma elástica importada durante los diez meses de que se ha hecho mención representó un valor de más de \$21,000,000, las fibras \$20,000,000 y la seda en rama \$40,000,000. De los artículos de alimentación, que se importan en cantidades cada vez mayores, el azúcar ocupa el primer lugar, y la cantidad que se introdujo en el año pasado fué mucho mayor que en los anteriores. La principal fuente del azúcar que se consume en los Estados Unidos son las colonias holandesas del Oriente, que se encuentran cerca de las Islas Filipinas. El azúcar importada durante los ya citados diez meses tuvo un valor de más de \$80,000,000.

### DINERO EN CIRCULACIÓN.

La circulación de dinero por cabeza en los Estados Unidos es como de \$26.58, lo cual es una cantidad extraordinaria, y muestra notable aumento sobre los años pasados. Hace diez años el promedio era solamente de \$22.82; hace veinte años era de \$19.41, y hace treinta años no pasaba de \$17.50.

### EXPORTACIÓN DE MAÍZ.

En el año económico 1889-90 la exportación de maíz de los Estados Unidos á Europa ascendió, por la primera vez, á más de 100,000,000 de bushels. Durante los seis años subsiguientes la exportación llegó á descender hasta 27,000,000 de bushels, y luego se elevó otra vez á 99,000,000 de bushels. En el año económico 1897-98 se exportaron de los Estados Unidos 200,000,000 de bushels de maíz, y en 1898-99 la exportación fué algo menor, pues no pasó de 174,000,000 de bushels. Á pesar de que las cosechas en Europa han sido buenas, los Estados Unidos han exportado á los países europeos durante los primeros nueve meses del presente año económico 160,000,000 de bushels de trigo. La Gran Bretaña consume la mayor parte de este artículo, pues en el período últimamente mencionado tomó 65,000,000 de bushels.

**TRÁFICO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS CON ALEMANIA.**

De 1890 á 1894, inclusive, los Estados Unidos importaron de Alemania, por término medio, mercancías valoradas en \$88,000,000 cada año. Durante los últimos cinco años el promedio ha sido de \$87,000,000.

**PRODUCTOS MINERALES DE CALIFORNIA.**

El Mineralogista del estado de California ha presentado un informe sobre el valor de las substancias minerales producidas por aquel estado durante el año de 1899, y dice que ascendió á \$29,313,460, ó sea un aumento de \$2,024,381 sobre la producción en el año anterior. Los principales productos minerales mencionados por dicho empleado y el valor que representaron fueron como sigue: oro, \$15,336,031; cobre (23,915,486 libras), \$3,990,534; petróleo (2,667,875 barriles), \$2,660,793; azogue (29,454 frascos), \$1,405,045; bórax (20,357 toneladas), \$1,139,682.

**LA INDUSTRIA DE SEDA EN CALIFORNIA.**

La Cámara de Comercio de la ciudad de San Diego, estado de California, ha hecho últimamente investigaciones relativas á lo que promete la industria de seda en aquella parte de los Estados Unidos. Como resultado de estas investigaciones se ha averiguado que mientras que en Francia la estación para la producción de la seda en rama dura solamente cuarenta días, en San Diego la estación dura doscientos cuarenta días. En vista de esto, la Cámara de Comercio está haciendo los mayores esfuerzos para el establecimiento de la nueva industria, y se han hecho arreglos para la introducción de grandes cantidades de gusanos de seda, y para la plantación de 5,000 morales en los distritos agrícolas en la vecindad de la población.

**MEJORAS EN LA BAHÍA DE SAN FRANCISCO.**

Por largo tiempo la navegación se ha visto bastante obstruida en la bahía de San Francisco por la existencia de rocas y bajíos situados entre las islas de Alcatraz y Ángel. Esto divide el canal en dos partes y da por resultado corrientes peligrosas en aquella sección de la bahía usada por vapores de pasajeros y otras embarcaciones. Después de cuidadoso estudio, el Gobierno del estado ha resuelto destruir esas rocas y bajíos. Los trabajos han progresado ya mucho y una gran parte de las rocas ha sido ya destruida. Las autoridades se proponen continuar los trabajos hasta conseguir que la profundidad media, á marca baja, sea de 30 pies. Se cree que dentro de dos años habrán desaparecido todos los obstáculos que estas rocas y bajíos han presentado á la navegación.

**COMERCIO DE HAWAI.**

El informe de las aduanas sobre las importaciones en todos los puertos del territorio del Hawai durante el primer trimestre del año corriente, comparadas con las del mismo período de 1899, fueron como sigue:

	1900.	1899.
Enero.....	\$1, 985, 492	\$1, 115, 054
Febrero.....	1, 751, 228	1, 349, 055
Marzo.....	1, 410, 203	1, 416, 825

**FÁBRICA DE VARILLAS DE ACERO.**

En un despacho de McKeesport, Pennsylvania, al “Public Ledger,” de Filadelfia, se asegura que la “Union Steel Company” ha comprado 700 acres de terreno, para fundar allí la fábrica de varillas, alambres y clavos más grande del país. Dicha compañía ha gastado ya como \$500,000 en la compra de propiedades y en la construcción de edificios.

Se trata de erigir dos grandes hornos de fundición, capaces de producir 600 toneladas de acero diariamente, y 10 ó 12 hornos más que producirán 50 toneladas cada uno. Se emplearán en ese establecimiento de 1,500 á 2,000 operarios.

**EXPOSICIÓN PAN-AMERICANA.**

El capital social de la Compañía de la Exposición Pan-Americana va á ser aumentado, según informes recibidos, con la emisión de bonos por valor de \$2,500,000. Los empleados de la Exposición no creen que será necesario ofrecer estos bonos al público, porque se piensa que las instituciones bancarias de la ciudad de Buffalo tomarán toda la cantidad. Según se asegura, un banco se ha suscrito ya por valor de \$250,000. Esta emisión de bonos hará ascender el capital social de la Exposición á \$5,000,000.

**DESCUBRIMIENTO DE UN MINERAL RARO.**

En una de las últimas reuniones de la sección de Mineralogía y Geología de la Academia de Ciencias en Nueva York, el Doctor E. O. Hovey llamó la atención al descubrimiento que se ha hecho en el estado de la Dakota del Sur de un mineral conocido por el nombre de *spodume*, que está formado, principalmente, de sílica, alumina y litio. El nuevo metal aparece en forma de cristales, y se han obtenido de él pedazos hasta de 30 pies de largo.

**PROTECCIÓN Á LOS PÁJAROS DE CAZA Y OTROS.**

El Congreso de los Estados Unidos ha dado nuevas facultades al Departamento de Agricultura; una de ellas se refiere al examen químico de las substancias alimenticias que se importan en el país y que de él se exportan. Otra se relaciona con los pájaros de caza, y tiene



por objeto el restablecimiento de los mismos en aquellos parajes donde han sido extinguidos, y reglamentar la introducción de aves americanas y extranjeras en aquellos lugares donde antes no existían.

#### **RIEGO DE TERRENOS ÁRIDOS EN OREGÓN.**

La "Oregon Irrigation Company," de Portland, se propone mejorar la condición de 387,000 acres de terrenos áridos en el condado de Crook. No lejos del río Deschutes, en el referido condado, hay una gran extensión de terrenos áridos que son mirados en el estado como desiertos. Sin embargo, cuando quiera que ha sido posible regarlos, dichos terrenos se han vuelto admirablemente fértiles. Este hecho es bien conocido, pero la dificultad de conducir el agua en grandes cantidades ha desalentado á los agricultores. La compañía actual se organizó en noviembre próximo pasado, y trata de construir cinco grandes canales de 30 á 33 pies de ancho y de 7 á 10 pies de profundidad para llevar el agua.

#### **EXPORTACIÓN DE ALGODÓN EN ABRIL DE 1900.**

La exportación de algodón de los Estados Unidos durante el mes de abril de 1900 ascendió á 264,044,318 libras, contra 134,397,328 libras en abril de 1899. El valor del algodón exportado en abril de este año fué de \$24,684,078, contra \$8,435,097 en abril del año pasado. El precio medio por libra en abril de este año fué de 9.3 centavos, lo cual es un aumento de cerca de 50 por ciento sobre el promedio en abril de 1899, cuando el precio fué solamente de 6.3 centavos.

#### **ENTRADAS AL TESORO NACIONAL EN MAYO DE 1900.**

Las entradas al Tesoro Nacional durante el mes de mayo de 1900 montaron á \$45,166,053, lo cual representa un aumento de \$380,040 sobre el mismo mes de 1899. Los gastos del Gobierno durante el mes ascendieron á \$40,351,525, dejando un superávit de \$4,814,528. Durante los once meses que terminaron el 31 de mayo las entradas del Gobierno aumentaron \$48,463,286 sobre las del mismo período en el año anterior. De estas entradas las aduanas dieron \$26,427,894, y la renta interior \$20,019,020. La deuda de los Estados Unidos el 31 de mayo de este año ascendía á \$1,122,608,811, lo cual muestra que hubo una disminución durante el mes de \$2,193,274.

El informe mensual del Contralor de la Moneda demuestra que el 31 de mayo de este año había en circulación billetes nacionales por valor de \$300,488,889.

#### **ACUÑACIÓN DURANTE EL MES DE MAYO.**

El informe del Director de la Moneda deja ver que la acuñación total durante el mes de mayo de 1900 fué por valor de \$11,569,063, dividida así:

Oro .....	\$8, 252, 000
Plata .....	3, 171, 000
Níquel y cobre.....	146, 063

**NUEVA LÍNEA DE VAPORES.**

La "Hamburg-American Steamship Company" anuncia que el 1° de octubre de este año comenzará un servicio de vapores entre Nueva York, Haití, los Estados Unidos de Colombia, Puerto Limón y Jamaica. Los vapores saldrán cada diez días.

**PAQUETES POSTALES PROCEDENTES DE MÉXICO.**

En la circular No. 64 expedida por el Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos con fecha 4 de mayo de 1900, se dan instrucciones relativas á los artículos importados de conformidad con las convenciones postales. Algunas de estas instrucciones se refieren directamente á los paquetes procedentes de México.

**MERCANCÍAS EXTRANJERAS EN TRÁNSITO.**

El Departamento de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos expidió una circular que lleva el No. 76, en la cual se dan instrucciones referentes á la entrada y transportación de mercancías que pasan en tránsito á través del territorio de los Estados Unidos. De conformidad con dicha circular, todas las mercancías que lleguen á cualquier puerto de los Estados Unidos con destino á otro país pueden ser declaradas en la aduana del puerto adonde arriben y conducidas á través del territorio de los Estados Unidos sin pagar derechos, según los reglamentos que emita el Departamento de Hacienda.

**COSECHA DE TRIGO EN KANSAS.**

La actual cosecha de trigo en el estado de Kansas es la más grande de que hay recuerdo. No sucede otro tanto en los otros estados productores de este grano, donde parece que la cosecha va á ser menor que en otros años. Mr. COBURN, Secretario de la Junta de Agricultura del estado de Kansas, dice que en 1892 la cosecha fué de 70,000,000 de bushels, y que en este año no bajará de 85,000,000 de bushels.

**IMPORTACIONES EN MANILA.**

El 28 de mayo de este año la Sección de Aduanas y Asuntos Insulares del Departamento de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos publicó un informe sobre las importaciones totales de mercancías, oro y plata, en el puerto de Manila, Islas Filipinas, desde el 13 de agosto de 1898 hasta el 1° de enero de 1900. Ascendieron á \$5,901,453. En este total van incluidos \$145,850 en plata, procedentes de Inglaterra, y \$375,000, también en plata, procedentes de Hongkong. La cantidad total de derechos de importación recaudada fué de \$777,904.

**INGRESOS EN EL TESORO DE PUERTO RICO EN ABRIL DE 1900.**

La Sección de Aduanas y Negocios Insulares del Departamento de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos ha publicado últimamente un informe en el cual se ve que los ingresos en el tesoro de Puerto Rico durante

el mes de abril de 1900 ascendieron á \$105,869.11. Las fuentes de estas entradas fueron las siguientes: aduanas, \$70,279.72; correos, \$6,287.02; renta interior, \$27,588.84; otras fuentes, \$1,713.40. Los gastos totales durante el mes montaron á \$186,510.77, lo cual muestra un déficit de \$80,641.59.

### ESTUDIOS GEOLÓGICOS EN ALASKA.

La oficina de Estudios Geológicos de los Estados Unidos va á examinar durante este verano los terrenos auríferos del Cabo Nome y los depósitos de cobre en la vecindad del río Copper y del monte Wrangell. La extensión de la faja aurífera que pasa á través del Cabo Nome es en gran parte desconocida, pero se cree que cubre un área de 3,000 á 4,000 millas cuadradas.

### UNA VENA DE GALACTITA.

Dice el "Chicago Chronicle" que se ha descubierto últimamente cerca del río Ocklockonee, catorce millas al oeste de la ciudad de Tallahassee, Florida, la vena más notable de galactita que se conoce. Este depósito produce con muy poco trabajo inmensas cantidades de galactita en estado puro.

### ESTACIONES METEOROLÓGICAS.

Los estragos ocasionados por los huracanes que periódicamente ocurren en las Antillas se evitarán en gran parte en lo futuro, debido á los trabajos del Departamento Meteorológico de los Estados Unidos. Van á establecerse estaciones en el Golfo de México y el mar Caribe, de las cuales se enviará oportuno aviso relativamente á dichos huracanes.

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## GUATEMALA.

### NUEVA LEY DE MINERÍA.

En el número 61 de "El Gautemalteco," correspondiente á 7 de mayo próximo pasado se ha publicado el siguiente importante decreto:

ARTÍCULO ÚNICO. Las empresas mineras establecidas ó que se establezcan dentro de dos años, tendrán desde esta fecha, por el término de quince años, las concesiones siguientes:

"1ª. Exención de todo impuesto fiscal ó municipal por la introducción al país de la maquinaria y enseres que no produzca la industria nacional, para el descubrimiento ó explotación de minas, y para la conducción y explotación de los productos minerales. Las facturas serán visadas por la Secretaría de Fomento.

"2ª. Las propiedades mineras no estarán sujetas á otro impuesto más que á la contribución territorial del seis por millar, siendo libre de impuestos fiscales ó municipales la exportación de sus brozas y demás productos minerales.

“3ª. Los fletes de los ferrocarriles nacionales no les será aumentado á las empresas mineras más de lo actualmente establecido, siempre que ello dependa del Gobierno.

“4ª. Exención de todo cargo concejil y del servicio militar en tiempo de paz para los empleados y jornaleros al servicio activo de las minas.

“5ª. Autorización para mejorar los caminos actuales ó construir nuevas vías de comunicación, llenando los trámites de la ley de expropiación y de ferrocarriles en su caso.

“6ª. Las autoridades departamentales y locales prestarán los auxilios que necesiten los buscadores de minas; y á los que tengan ya en explotación la protección necesaria haciendo efectivos los contratos de servicios.

“7ª. En caso de traerse inmigrantes para las empresas mineras, aquéllos disfrutarán de las franquicias que otorga la ley de inmigración en los incisos 2º y 3º del artículo 11.

“8ª. Las anteriores concesiones subsistirán siempre por el término de quince años, aun cuando se reforme la legislación fiscal ó minera de la República.

“Pase al Ejecutivo para su publicación y cumplimiento.

“Dado en el Palacio del Poder Legislativo, en Guatemala, á los veinte y cinco días del mes de abril de mil novecientos.”

#### DECRETO ACERCA DE LA EXPORTACIÓN DEL HULE.

“El Guatemalteco,” diario oficial de la República de Guatemala, publica en su edición de 7 de abril del corriente año el siguiente importante decreto:

“Con el objeto de evitar los abusos que se cometen en la extracción y exportación del hule de los distintos lugares donde se produce, el Presidente Constitucional de la República acuerda:

“Hacer extensivas á todos los departamentos las disposiciones consignadas en los artículos 1º, 2º, 3º, 4º, 5º, y 10º del acuerdo de 28 de febrero de este año, y que dicen:

“ARTÍCULO 1º. Toda persona que como contratista, ó sirviente de otra, esté extrayendo ó vaya á extraer hule sin tener licencia personal, debe obtener una constancia de su patrón, ó de la persona por cuya cuenta trabaja ó va á trabajar, de que va á extraer hule con la licencia concedida á esa persona.

“ARTÍCULO 2º. La constancia de que habla el artículo anterior irá extendida en papel sellado de 10 centavos, y deberá llevar el V. B. de la Jefatura, cuyo despacho abrirá un libro para anotar las constancias que se expidan. Las mismas constancias caducan al terminar la licencia de la persona que la expida, y se renovará si ésta obtiene nueva licencia.

“ARTÍCULO 3º. La persona á quien se halle extrayendo hule sin la constancia de que habla el artículo anterior será penada con una multa de 30 pesos, ó en caso de insolvencia, con dos meses de prisión

simple, debiendo caer en comiso el hule que haya extraído. La persona que extendiere constancia á algún trabajador, sin tener la licencia que expide la Jefatura Política para la extracción del hule, se le penará como reo de estafa.

“ARTÍCULO 4º. Toda persona que extraiga hule, debe obtener una guía del alcalde municipal, en cuya jurisdicción toque primero al salir del monte. En dicha guía se hará constar el nombre de la persona á cuyo favor se expide y la cantidad de hule que conduce. La guía puede ser extendida por los alcaldes en papel simple; pero en el lugar en que se paguen los derechos de exportación se le pondrá timbres por valor de 25 centavos, ó se repondrá con papel de ese valor.”

“ARTÍCULO 5º. Todo hule que se conduzca sin guía podrá ser decomisado, y será vendido, en pública subasta, ingresando la mitad de su valor á las rentas públicas y dándose la otra mitad al aprehensor.

“ARTÍCULO 10º. Las compañías ó empresas que tienen bosques concedidos ó arrendados por el Gobierno pueden hacer la exportación de hule según está convenido en sus contratos; pero deben dar previo aviso á la Jefatura Política de las personas que vayan á extraer hule por su cuenta ó con su licencia, en los terrenos de sus respectivas concesiones, y pagar los derechos donde corresponde.”

#### EL AÑO ECONÓMICO.

Según dice “El Guatemalteco,” diario oficial de la República de Guatemala, el presupuesto de gastos ordinarios de la administración pública para el año económico, del 1º de julio de 1900 á 30 de junio de 1901, asciende á \$9,611,200.96.

#### CONVENIO SOBRE MARCAS DE FÁBRICA Y COMERCIO.

“El Guatemalteco” publica en su número de 3 de mayo de este año un convenio sobre marcas de fábrica y comercio, celebrado entre el Gobierno de Guatemala y el de Bélgica.

#### EDUCACIÓN DE INGENIEROS DE MINAS.

“El Guatemalteco,” en su número de 3 de mayo de este año, publica un decreto del Gobierno de Guatemala que contiene un solo artículo, el cual dice así: Tan pronto como las circunstancias del Erario lo permitan, el Ejecutivo enviará al extranjero cuatro jóvenes guatemaltecos que deseen dedicarse á la carrera de ingenieros de minas, pensionándolos durante el tiempo que necesiten para completar sus conocimientos.

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### MÉXICO.

#### CONCESIÓN PARA CONCHA MADRE PERLA.

El “Diario Oficial,” de México, correspondiente al 26 de mayo próximo pasado, publica un contrato celebrado entre la Secretaría de Fomento, en representación del Ejecutivo de la Unión, y el Ingeniero

FÉLIX DÍAS, para la explotación de la Concha Madre Perla en los ríos de jurisdicción federal de los estados de Veracruz, Tabasco y Campeche, y en la cuenca hidrográfica del río Usumacinta, en el estado de Chiapas. La duración del contrato será de diez años.

#### FÁBRICA DE GLICERINA.

También ha celebrado el mismo Gobierno, según se ve por el "Diario Oficial" de 22 del citado mes, un contrato con la Compañía Jabonera de La Laguna, para la fabricación de glicerina, y en el que se autoriza á la mencionada compañía á fabricar dinamita y nitroglicerina.

#### SUBVENCIÓN DE FERROCARRIL.

Otro contrato importante es el celebrado entre el Secretario de Comunicaciones y Obras Públicas de México y la Compañía del Ferrocarril de Chihuahua al Pacífico, en el cual se dice que á fin de auxiliar la construcción de esa vía férrea el Gobierno se compromete á dar á la compañía una subvención de conformidad con las bases siguientes: la línea subvencionada será solo de una extensión de 700 kilómetros; la línea se considerará dividida en tres secciones, siendo la primera de 200 kilómetros y la segunda y tercera de 250 kilómetros cada una. La primera sección causará una subvención de \$1,400,000 en bonos de la deuda interior amortizable del 5 por ciento; la segunda de \$3,000,000 y la tercera de \$1,750,000 en bonos de la referida deuda interior amortizable.

#### NUEVO BANCO AGRÍCOLA É HIPOTECARIO.

Dice "El Economista Mexicano," en su número correspondiente al 12 de mayo próximo pasado, que se ha promulgado en México un convenio celebrado entre el Señor Don JOSÉ Y. LIMANTOUR, Secretario de Estado y del Despacho de Hacienda y Crédito Público, en representación del Ejecutivo Federal, y un número de capitalistas para el establecimiento de un banco agrícola é hipotecario en la capital de la República. Por ahora el capital del banco se fija en \$2,000,000, pero antes del primer año, contado á partir de la fecha del contrato, habrá de ser elevado á la cantidad de \$5,000,000, so pena de caducidad del mismo contrato.

#### FERROCARRIL DE TEHUANTEPEC.

Refiriéndose al Ferrocarril de Tehuantepec, el periódico "El Nacional," que se publica en la ciudad de México, dice en su número de 1° de junio de este año lo siguiente:

"Después de muchos sacrificios y grandes trabajos preliminares, puede decirse que comienza para el Ferrocarril de Tehuantepec la última etapa en el largo camino de su construcción. Ya puede decirse que están bien estudiadas y resueltas todas las dificultades técnicas que han venido deteniendo, ó mejor dicho, impidiendo de una manera completa el tráfico interoceánico por esa vía.

“Lo que se va á hacer es, en breves palabras, lo siguiente: fortificar la vía para que pueda resistir un tráfico activo y trenes pesados; dotarla del material rodante necesario y de estaciones y almacenes amplios y suficientes para todas sus necesidades; mejorar el puerto de Coatzacoalcos, y hacer uno artificial en Salina Cruz.”

#### NUEVO METAL.

El “Boletín Mensual” del Observatorio Meteorológico Central de México habla de un nuevo metal llamado “magnalio,” que el Doctor LUIS MACH ha obtenido por aleación del aluminio y el magnesio. Este nuevo metal puede trabajarse lo mismo que el latón, y es aun más ligero que el aluminio. Es un metal muy indicado para el montaje de anteojos y para círculos y arcos graduados para instrumentos en los cuales la disminución de peso es muy importante. Á igualdad de volumen resulta algo más barato que el latón, pero todavía no se conoce de un modo práctico la resistencia que puede atribuírsele.

#### CONSULADO GENERAL EN HONDURAS.

Dice el periódico “Las Novedades,” de Nueva York, que el Gobierno mexicano acaba de crear un Consulado General en Honduras, y que para desempeñarlo ha sido nombrado el Mayor de Caballería, Don JOSÉ MANUEL GUTIÉRREZ ZAMORA, quien dentro de poco partirá para Tegucigalpa.

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### NICARAGUA.

#### CONSTRUCCIÓN DE UN FERROCARRIL AL ATLÁNTICO.

El Gobierno de Nicaragua ha expedido un decreto muy importante relativo á la construcción del ferrocarril al Atlántico, obra que sin duda alguna contribuirá notablemente al desarrollo del país. El Presidente ZELAYA está vivamente interesado en llevar á cabo esta gran obra y es de esperar que sus esfuerzos sean coronados de buen éxito.

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### PERÚ.

#### CONSTRUCCIÓN DE UN MUELLE EN EL PUERTO DE CHIMBOTE.

El Gobierno peruano ha contratado con el Señor VÍCTOR PEZET la construcción de un muelle de hierro con sobreestructura de madera en el puerto de Chimbote. En el contrato se establece que el concesionario llevará á cabo la obra por su cuenta y riesgo, pudiendo introducir todas las modificaciones que tiendan á dar mayor estabilidad al muelle. Los trabajos deberán comenzar, á más tardar, seis meses después de firmada la escritura de contrato. Todos los materiales que se importen con arreglo á la resolución legislativa de 11 de setiembre de 1897 estarán exentos del pago de derechos fiscales ó municipales durante la

construcción del muelle. El concesionario explotará la obra durante veinticinco años. Vencido ese plazo, asumirá gratuitamente el Estado la propiedad del muelle con su material y accesorios, en el mejor estado de servicio.

El Gobierno se reserva la facultad de comprar al concesionario sus derechos después que éste haya explotado la obra por el término de quince años, por el precio de 42,000 soles. Durante la explotación no permitirá el Gobierno el establecimiento de otro muelle en la bahía de Chimbote, y el concesionario tendrá derecho para impedir que se efectúe embarque ó desembarque de carga en el citado puerto. Como garantía de cumplimiento de las obligaciones que contrae, el concesionario hará un depósito de 20,000 soles nominales en bonos de la deuda interior, el cual le será devuelto tan luego como el Gobierno declare terminada la obra. El contrato podrá ser transferido con la aprobación del Gobierno.

#### **SOCIEDAD ANÓNIMA DE CONSTRUCCIONES Y AHORROS.**

Con el nombre de “La Colmena” se ha fundado en la capital del Perú una sociedad anónima de construcciones y de ahorros, cuyo objeto principal, según se expresa en sus estatutos, es convertir al inquilino, ó arrendatario, en propietario de la casa que habite ó del terreno que cultive; así como formar, en moneda capital al que deposite en ella sus ahorros. También hará todo género de construcciones por cuenta ajena.

“La Colmena” ejecutará las operaciones siguientes: 1. Comprar terrenos y construcciones, con el fin de edificar, reconstruir y vender. 2. Vender, en la forma de pago mensual, los edificios que adquiera, construya ó reedifique. 3. Ejecutar idénticas operaciones con tierras labrantías y propiedades rústicas. 4. Recibir ahorros en dinero, para devolverlos acumulados y con los acrecimientos que detallan sus tablas de imposición. 5. Hacer por cuenta ajena obras de construcción urbana ó rústica de todas clases. 6. Ejecutar cualquiera otra operación destinada á la mejor realización de su objeto.

#### **FÁBRICA DE FÓSFOROS.**

Dice un telegrama de Lima, fechado á ocho de este mes, que una fábrica de fósforos construída con capital de los Estados Unidos, en las inmediaciones del Callao, fué inaugurada por el Presidente ROMANO. La fábrica empleará 250 operarios.

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### **URUGUAY.**

#### **NUEVO MINISTRO ACREDITADO EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.**

El 13 de este mes fué recibido por el Presidente de los Estados Unidos el Señor Dr. DON JUAN CUESTAS en el carácter de Ministro Residente de la República Oriental del Uruguay.



Al entregar al Presidente de los Estados Unidos la carta credencial autógrafa del Presidente del Uruguay, el Dr. CUESTAS dijo que, interpretando los sentimientos de que estaba animado su Gobierno al confiarle la presente misión, cuyo objeto es contribuir á hacer más estrechas, si es posible, las relaciones de franca y cordial amistad que unen á los dos países, consideraba un deber manifestar al Señor Presidente de los Estados Unidos, que el Gobierno uruguayo abraza los mejores deseos en pro de la prosperidad y grandeza de esta nación y de la felicidad personal del Jefe del Estado. Terminó el Dr. CUESTAS su discurso expresando que se congratulaba al pensar que el Presidente apreciaría la sinceridad de sus sentimientos y que les daría bondadosa acogida, lo cual haría más fácil el desempeño de su misión, agregando que se consideraría muy feliz si sus esfuerzos como Representante del Uruguay obtuvieran la eficaz cooperación del Primer Magistrado de este gran pueblo.

En Señor Presidente McKINLEY contestó al Doctor CUESTAS que le causaba mucho placer darle la bienvenida á este país en su carácter de Ministro Residente de la República Oriental del Uruguay, y asegurarle que los sentimientos amistosos y cordiales expresados por él eran sinceramente correspondidos por el Gobierno y pueblo de los Estados Unidos, y concluyó su discurso con estas palabras:

“Me causará gran placer cooperar con vos hacia el laudable fin de que habéis hecho mención de fortalecer y hacer aun más íntimas las relaciones que felizmente unen á nuestras dos Repúblicas. Me causa especial satisfacción daros la bienvenida, no solamente como Ministro del Uruguay, sino como hijo del ilustrado estadista que ahora dirige los destinos de aquella República.”

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## BIBLIOGRAFÍA.

En esta sección del Boletín Mensual se tratará de los libros y folletos enviados á la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas, que se refieren á asuntos relacionados con los países de la Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

El canje de publicaciones de Centro y Sud América puede efectuarse por conducto de la “Smithsonian Institution,” Wáshington, D. C., por medio de las agencias de distribución que tiene en aquellos países, y que son las siguientes:

Argentina: Museo Nacional, Buenos Aires.

Bolivia: Oficina Nacional de Inmigración, Estadística y Propaganda Geográfica, La Paz.

Chile: Universidad de Chile, Santiago.

Colombia: Biblioteca Nacional, Bogotá.

Costa Rica: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, San José.

El Salvador: Museo Nacional, San Salvador.

Guatemala: Instituto Nacional de Guatemala, Guatemala.

Honduras: Biblioteca Nacional, Tegucigalpa.

México: Todos los envíos gozan de la franquicia del correo.

Nicaragua: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Managua.

Paraguay: Oficina General de Informaciones y Canje y Comisaría General de Inmigración, Asunción.

Perú: Biblioteca Nacional, Lima.

Uruguay: Oficina de Depósito, Reparto y Canje Internacional, Montevideo.

Venezuela: Museo Nacional, Caracas.

El "Year Book" ó sea el anuario del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos para 1899 acaba de salir á luz. Aunque en su forma el volumen es igual á los anteriores, se ha introducido un cambio en cuanto á las materias que componen la segunda parte de la obra. Según lo dispone la ley, la primera parte del libro contiene el informe anual del Secretario de Agricultura. La segunda parte es una revista de los progresos alcanzados en el país durante un siglo en lo relativo á agricultura. La tercera parte ó apéndice contiene informes muy valiosos para todos aquellos que se interesan por la agricultura. Es una excelente obra de referencia, compuesta de 880 páginas y muy bien ilustrada. La edición es de 500,000 ejemplares, y se ha hecho además una edición especial á fin de distribuirla en la Exposición de París.

Dice "Das Handelsmuseum" que en una conferencia que se verificó en la Academia de Ciencia de París, los Señores I. DYBOWSK y G. FRAU presentaron un nuevo arbusto productor de goma elástica, oriundo del norte de la China, el cual se cultiva en la actualidad con muy buen éxito en el Jardín de Plantas de París. Hasta esta fecha la goma elástica se ha extraído solamente de árboles y se han hecho esfuerzos para aclimatarlos en las colonias francesas, pero, desgraciadamente, no se han obtenido buenos resultados. Esta nueva planta llamada *Economia illinoïdes*, cuya fruta contiene más de 27 por ciento de goma elástica, presenta grandes ventajas económicas, y puede ser cultivada fácilmente en los países de la zona templada.

La "American Book Company" acaba de dar á la publicidad en el idioma español, primorosamente impresa y corregida, una obra interesantísima, de mucha utilidad para las escuelas, titulada "Nociones de Historia de los Estados Unidos," que comprende desde los primitivos tiempos de la colonización de estas regiones americanas hasta nuestros días, no omitiendo la reciente guerra hispano-americana, que resultó en la adquisición de nuevos territorios en las Antillas y Oceanía.

El plan de la obra es muy sencillo y llena por todos conceptos los requisitos de un admirable libro de texto para la enseñanza de la Historia de los Estados Unidos en los países hispano-americanos.

Mr. J. HESTER, de Nueva Orleans, ha publicado un artículo en favor de la construcción del Canal de Nicaragua, en el cual dice que durante los últimos ocho meses los Estados Unidos han exportado al Japón 300,000 pacas de algodón, contra 203,000 que fueron exportadas en el año de 1898. De la exportación actual, 169,000 pacas fueron por tierra á los puertos del Pacífico, 87,000 salieron de los puertos del golfo de México y 44,000 fueron enviadas por la vía del canal de Suez. Opina Mr. HESTER que un canal á través del istmo americano sería más provechoso á Nueva Orleans y á Galveston que á Nueva York.

El periódico "La Plata Post" dice que el Señor PABLO GROUSSAC, Director de la Biblioteca Nacional, ha recibido instrucciones del Ministro de Agricultura para preparar un libro sobre la República Argentina. Además de una descripción general del país, la obra contendrá un estudio relativo al progreso intelectual y social de la nación. Se trata de hacer circular este trabajo en el exterior, á fin de promover la inmigración, y se le publicará en español, inglés y francés. Debe estar terminado el 31 de julio de este año.

En el número 7 de la "Revista de Ciencias," de Lima, correspondiente al mes de abril de este año, se da la noticia de que el segundo Congreso Científico Latino-Americano se reunirá en Montevideo el 20 de marzo de 1901, y que se dividirá en nueve secciones, á saber: ciencias exactas; ciencias físico-químicas; ciencias naturales; ingeniería; agronomía y zootecnia; ciencias médicas; ciencias sociales y políticas; ciencias pedagógicas; ciencias antropológicas.

Un una publicación titulada "Una Centuria de Cobre" se pone de manifiesto el aumento de la industria de cobre en los Estados Unidos. Según este trabajo, este país produjo durante la última década más de la mitad del cobre del mundo entero, mientras que en la década anterior no produjo más que una tercera parte. En 1890 los Estados Unidos exportaron solamente 20,237,409 libras de cobre, y en 1899 la exportación subió á 254,987,164 libras.

En un informe del Departamento de Estado aparece una comunicación de Mr. JOHN F. WINTER, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Annaberg, Alemania, relativa al comercio general del mundo y á la parte que corresponde á cada nación. Dice que de los \$18,000,000,000 que representan las transacciones comerciales de cada año, 18.3 por ciento corresponde á la Gran Bretaña, 10.8 por ciento á Alemania, y 9.7 por ciento á los Estados Unidos.

Se ha recibido en esta Oficina el informe del Secretario de Hacienda y Crédito Público de México, Señor LIMANTOUR, que fué presentado al Congreso de la Unión. Está fechado ese importante trabajo á 15 de mayo de 1900, y versa sobre el uso de las facultades otorgadas al Ejecutivo por la ley de 2 de junio de 1899, para convertir la deuda nacional pagadera en libras esterlinas. Contiene la obra doce documentos anexos.

HARPER & BROTHERS, de Nueva York, publicaron últimamente una obra escrita por Mr. WILLIAM E. SMYTHE titulada, "The Conquest of Arid America." Mr. SMYTHE es una autoridad en la cuestión de riego, y su libro trata de los grandes progresos que se han obtenido en este sentido. Demuestra que por medio del riego terrenos completamente áridos se han convertido en parajes muy fértiles.

"La Carta Meteorológica de los Grandes Lagos," que en 1899 fué publicada mensualmente, como un experimento, durante la estación de la navegación, será en adelante una publicación regular del Departamento Meteorológico de los Estados Unidos. Dicha carta fué tan útil el año pasado á los buques que navegaban entre los puertos de dichos lagos que se ha hecho ya indispensable.

El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos ha publicado un folleto con este título: "Economic Grasses." En esta publicación se describen las hierbas más importantes indígenas de los Estados Unidos, así como las que han sido introducidas de países extranjeros. Es un trabajo interesante que contiene buenas ilustraciones.

Se han recibido en esta Oficina varios números del "Boletín de Estadística Fiscal de la República Mexicana," importante publicación que contiene datos de verdadero interés y que muestra que la estadística ha llegado á un alto grado de adelanto en la vecina República.

# BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,

União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

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VOL. VIII.

JUNHO DE 1900.

No. 6.

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## CONFERENCIA INTERNACIONAL AMERICANA.

Os membros da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas reuniram-se no salão diplomatico da Secretaria de Estado em Washington, no dia 13 de Junho de 1900.

Estiveram representados os paizes seguintes:

Republica Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Equador, Estados Unidos, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Salvador, Venezuela.

O objecto da reunião foi discutir sobre o lugar e data em que se deve realizar a Conferencia Internacional Americana. O Sr. ASPIROZ, Embaixador do Mexico, fez um convite official em nome do seu Governo, afim de que a Conferencia se verifique na capital daquella Republica.

Este convite foi aceito, e todos os membros da União manifestaram seu sincero agradecimento ao Governo mexicano.

Resolveu-se que se deixasse aos Governos de Mexico e os Estados Unidos fixar a epocha da conferencia.

N'uma reunião da Comissão Executiva da União Internacional, que se realizou no dia 15 de Junho, se resolveu que a conferencia seria convocada a reunir-se na cidade de Mexico em uma data comprehendida entre os mezes de Abril e Julho de 1901. Os convites serão enviados pelo Governo mexicano, o qual fixará a data definitiva.

## A PRODUÇÃO DE LARANJAS SEM SEMENTES.

Os laranjaes do Estado da California, Estados Unidos, produzem annualmente milhares de caixas de laranjas sem sementes. Essa variedade da laranjeira foi introduzida nos Estados Unidos, pela primeira vez, em 1872, pelo Sr. WILLIAM F. JUDSON, então consul americano em Bahia, Brazil. Tendo ouvido que nos terrenos pantanosos na margem esquerda do rio Amazonas, á distancia de 60 milhas da Bahia, crescia uma variedade da laranjeira que produzia laranjas sem sementes, o consul mandou trazer d'alli umas plantas novas desta especie, as quaes foram cuidadosamente empacotadas e enviadas ao Departamento da Agricultura em Washington. A principio fez-se pouco caso destas plantas e a maior parte dellas morreram.

No anno seguinte, as quatro que restavam foram enviadas ao Sr. HORATIO TIBBETTS, na California do Sul, quem tinha pedido ao Departamento arvores fructiferas e arbustos para fins experimentaes. Plantaram-se essas plantas n'um local denominado Riverside, e depois de decorridos cinco annos, duas dellas começaram a dar fructo, sendo de 16 laranjas a colheita total deste anno (1878-9). A principio os cultivadores de fructos a quem se exhibiram estas laranjas manifestavam-se duvidosos de que poderiam as arvores produzir por annos consecutivos laranjas desta ordem, e por isso se esperava com muita impaciencia a segunda colheita que foi superior, tanto no numero como na qualidade das laranjas, á do anno anterior.

Durante dous annos o Sr. TIBBETTS experimentou a propagação desta variedade por meio de estacas, mas suas experiencias não tiveram exito, e finalmente adoptou o processo de reproducção por meio de enxertos. Descobriu-se que os olhos ou garfos tirados desta especie e enxertados sobre a laranjeira ordinaria desenvolveriam e produziriam laranjas sem sementes. Em 1883 houve grande procura de olhos ou garfos desta especie, vendendo-se estes por \$1, cada um, ou por um preço nunca inferior a \$5, por duzia.

Essa industria tem tido grande desenvolvimento e hoje existem milhares de laranjeiras desta variedade. Ha grande numero de laranjaes que teem dado um rendimento liquido por anno de \$250 a \$300 por geira. Desde uma povoação de menos de 30 habitantes, Riverside tem desenvolvido em uma cidade prospera com uma população de 14,000. É a região de maior produção de laranjas no mundo, sendo de 16,000 geiras a extensão do territorio consagrado ao cultivo deste fructo. A quantidade de laranjas expedidas annualmente de Riverside, é, pela média, de 1,600,000 caixas.

## A INDUSTRIA DE PEIXE SALGADO NOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

A conservação do peixe por meio do sal data desde tempo immemorial. Essa industria nos Estados Unidos iniciou-se com a chegada no paiz dos primeiros colonos e desde então tem sido uma das principaes industrias do paiz. Segundo a “Fishing Gazette” o consumo de peixe salgado tem diminuido nos Estados Unidos, devido principalmente ao desenvolvimento da industria do peixe fresco e ao facto de que grande quantidade do peixe salgado tem sido exportada para o estrangeiro. Nos ultimos annos a industria da pesca tem havido grande desenvolvimento sob a protecção do Governo. As embarcações que hoje se empregam na pesca são maiores, melhor equipadas e de maior velocidade que jamais teem-se empregado nessa industria.

As principaes variedades de peixe que se salgam são o bacalhão, a cavalla, o arenque, o salmão, o peixe denominado “alewife,” savel, truta, *hake* (especie de bacalhão), abadejo e méro. Estas variedades constituem provavelmente nove decimos da quantidade total de peixe salgado que se consome neste paiz. Nos mares do Atlantico do Norte encontram-se talvez maior numero de peixes que se podem comer que em qualquer outro divisão de aguas do mundo. Os estabelecimentos da salga do “groundfish” estão em sua maior parte situados no Estado de Massachusetts, onde se salgaram em 1899, 63,900,000 libras deste peixe.

Calcula-se em 500,000,000 libras a quantidade total de bacalhão colhida annualmente, inclusive a colhida na Noruega, Terra Nova, França e Canadá. A quantidade do bacalhão que colhem annualmente os pescadores americanos tem augmentado de 75,000,000 a 150,000,000 libras. A maior parte da produção total, depois de secca, é exportada para os paizes tropicaes. O bacalhão assim preparado constitue um alimento gostoso adaptado aos climas calidos.

Em muitos dos portos da Nova Inglaterra, a industria da salga do bacalhão já tem sido abandonada ha muito tempo. Para substituir o bacalhão salgado, tem-se salgado peixe fresco. Durante os ultimos quinze annos tem havido grande actividade na industria da pesca do bacalhão e abadejo frescos de modo que os supprimentos frequentemente excedem ás necessidades do consumo. Sempre que isto acontece, salgam-se grandes quantidades do peixe, sendo seccados ao fumo os abadejos. A quantidade destes peixes que se salgaram em 1898, foi de 50,000,000 libras, approximadamente. Assim, subsidiaria á industria da pesca tem sido desenvolvida uma importante industria da salga do peixe. Salgam-se annualmente nos Estados Unidos cerca de 500,000 quintaes de bacalhão, *hake*, abadejo, *cusk* e méro e 100,000

barris de cavallas e 100,000 barris de arenques. A quantidade de arenques seccados que se consome no paiz é de 1,000,000 libras. Alem destes ha quantidades consideraveis de salmão de salmoura, savel e outros peixes de menor importancia.

## DIREITOS DE TONELAGEM E LEIS DE NAVEGAÇÃO PARA HAWAI.

Segundo uma circular publicada no dia 3 de Maio 1900, pela Repartição de Navegação dos Estados Unidos, as embarcações que entrarem nos Estados Unidos procedentes do Territorio de Hawai, desde o dia 14 de Junho de 1900 em diante, ou que entrarem nos portos de Hawai de portos dos Estados Unidos estarão isentas do pagamento de direitos de tonelagem; mas as embarcações que entrarem em Hawai de qualquer outra procedencia que não seja os Estados Unidos, pagarão os direitos de tonelagem de conformidade com as leis dos Estados Unidos.

Outra circular publicada na mesma data prohibe os pagamentos d'antemão á marinheiros fazendo viagens entre os portos do Pacifico e os de Hawai. O pagamento de um mez d'antemão será permittido aos marinheiros que fazem viagens entre Hawai e os portos do Atlantico.

Na mesma data foram publicados os regulamentos relativos á propriedade de navios, registro, quarantena, etc. Por estes, as leis de navegação dos Estados Unidos fazem-se extensivas ao Territorio de Hawai.

Segundo a lei de 30 de Abril de 1900, pela qual foi creado o Territorio de Hawai, todas as illias são comprehendidas n'um districto aduaneiro com portos de entrada e sahida em Honolulu, Hilo, Mahukona e Kahului.

## A PRODUÇÃO UNIVERSAL DO AÇO.

Do “Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels” extrahimos os seguintes dados sobre a producção do aço do mundo:

	1898.	1899.
	<i>Toneladas.</i>	<i>Toneladas.</i>
Grã Bretanha .....	4,565,300	4,855,325
Estados Unidos .....	8,829,500	10,533,670
Allemanha.....	5,734,307	6,290,434
França.....	1,441,633	1,529,182
Belgica .....	653,130	729,920
Austria-Hungria .....	860,000	950,000
Russia .....	1,153,000	1,250,000
Suecia .....	265,121	257,000
Italia .....	60,000	80,000
Hespanha.....	90,000	120,000
Total.....	23,651,991	26,595,531



A produção total de aço em 1880 foi de 4,192,008 toneladas. Hoje se converte em aço 70 per cento do ferro guza do mundo.

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## MENSAGEM DO PRESIDENTE CAMPOS SALLES.

Em seguida damos extractos da mensagem do Presidente da Republica do Brazil, Dr. MANOEL FERRAZ DE CAMPOS SALLES, apresentada ao Congresso Nacional na abertura da primeira sessão da quarta legislatura, o 3 de Maio de 1900.

### RELAÇÕES EXTERIORES.

“Continuação em pé de boa amizade as nossas relações com as potencias estrangeiras.

“Assignalo com a mais viva satisfação o grato acontecimento da visita que me fez no mez de Agosto ultimo o Exm. Sr. General JULIO ROCA, Presidente da Republica Argentina. Foi a primeira vez que coube ao Brazil a honra de receber um chefe de estado.

“O Governo, correspondendo ao sentimento nacional e aos seus proprios desejos, procurou demonstrar, em respeitosas e significativas homenagens, quanto era profundo o sen reconhecimento a esse acto de cortezia e estima por parte do supremo magistrado da nobre nação amiga e vizinha.

“O povo brasileiro, por sua vez, associando-se com rara espontaneidade ás manifestações officiaes, achou occasião de mostrar, nas calorosas expansões do seu justo jubilo, toda a sinceridade dos sentimentos que o ligão ao povo argentino.

“Foi assim que os inolvidaveis dias da permanencia do illustre Presidente da Republica Argentina na Capital da Republica Brasileira puderão assumir o significativo character de verdadeiros dias de festa nacional, affectuosa consagração da tradicional cordialidade que domina nas relações dos dous povos.

“Abrindo espaço ao desenvolvimento da alliança moral, a que intencionalmente alludio o illustre Sr. General ROCA, este memoravel acontecimento exercerá, por certo, benefica e extensa influencia nos destinos de uma larga politica de solidariedade americana, como aconselhão os grandes interesses e as legitimas aspirações do nosso continente.

“Utilizando-me da licença que me concedestes, espero retribuir em breve a honrosa visita, retribuição que não pôde ser feita com a devida pontualidade, porque as exigencias da publica administração não me permittirão ainda ausentar-me do paiz.

“A questão dos nossos limites com a Guyana Franceza foi, como sabeis, submettida de commum accôrdo á decisão do Governo da Confederação Suissa. Para defender perante elle o direito do Brazil está

acreditado como Enviado Extraordinario e Ministro Plenipotenciario em Missão Especial o Bacharel JOSÉ MARIA DA SILVA PARANHOS, Barão do Rio Branco, antes com justa razão escolhido para organizar os elementos indispensaveis a esta nova e importante tarefa. Digo, com justa razão, porque para ella estava naturalmente indicado pelo relevante serviço prestado em Washington em assumpto semelhante. De conformidade com o seu compromisso, já ambas as partes apresentarão ao arbitro as respectivas memorias.

“Nas do Brazil está o seu direito exposto e provado com tanta clareza, que confiadamente aguardo favoravel decisão.

“Pelo protocollo de 10 de Abril de 1897, data em que se assignou o compromisso de arbitramento, convierão o Brazil e a França em preparar os elementos necessarios para que, proferida a sentença abritral, se proceda á demarcação da fronteira sem demora e de conformidade com essa sentença; e para isso organisarão uma commissão mixta destinada a explorar os rios que possão interessar a questão. Com prazer commemoro aqui o valioso concurso que a commissão brasileira tem recebido do Dr. PAES DE CARVALHO, Governador do Estado do Pará.

“A questão dos limites com a Guyana Ingleza, tão importante como a dos limites com a Franceza, tem sido objecto de constante attenção. O Sr. SOUSA CORRÉA, nosso Ministro em Londres, cujo fallecimento todos deplorão, estava encarregado de negociar e concluir com o Governo Britannico um compromisso de arbitramento, cuja idéa, suggerida por esse Governo, tinha sido aceita sem hesitação. Foi necessario nomear novo Plenipotenciario e a minha escolha recahiu na pessoa do Bacharel JOAQUIM AURELIO NABUCO DE ARAUJO, que estava incumbido de preparar a defesa do nosso direito.

“Dei-lhe, como Enviado Extraordinario e Ministro Plenipotenciario em missão especial, os poderes necessarios para todos os actos relativos á questão pendente e elle ha de corresponder, estou certo, a essa prova de merecida confiança.

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“Por meio de um protocollo, aqui assignado em 30 Outubro do anno proximo findo, está resolvida a divergencia que havia entre o Brazil e a Bolivia, relativamente á nascente do Javary.

“A latitude dessa nascente foi determinada em 1874 pela commissão mixta que concluiu a demarcação dos limites entre o Brazil e o Perú. Para poupar tempo e despeza—ao menos foi esse o pensamento do Governo Brasileiro, quando, em 1895, se tratou de demarcar a linha divisoria entre o Madeira e o Javary—adoptou-se a operação feita por aquella commissão; mas, levantando-se duvida sobre a exactidão da latitude achada, pareceu necessario verificar se realmente tinha havido engano. O Governo da Bolivia não se prestou a essa verificação, por entender que a latitude de 1874 estava adoptada definitivamente e que della devia partir a raia para o Madeira. Fez-se a verificação, sem o

seu concurso, e achou-se a diferença que causa ao Estado do Amazonas a perda de 242 leguas quadradas.

“Ajustou-se no referido protocollo que se organisaria uma commissão mixta para verificar a verdadeira posição da nascente ou da principal nascente do Javary e para demarcar a fronteira partindo da latitude que se achar. Até á conclusão desse trabalho fica adoptada como limite provisório a linha tirada do Madeira á latitude determinada pelo commissario brasileiro que procedeu sem o concurso da outra parte. A commissão brasileira está nomeada e unir-se-ha á boliviana logo que o Congresso Nacional votar o necessario credito.

“O Governo Boliviano estabeleceu, como sabeis, uma alfandega sobre o Rio Acre ou Aquiry, no lugar chamado Puerto Alonso. Segundo estudos a que procedeu, o engenheiro que se encarregou desse trabalho julga que essa alfandega está em territorio boliviano; mas como se tem pretendido o contrario, ajustou-se no mencionado protocollo que ella fique onde se acha, até ser concluida a demarcação da fronteira na parte respectiva, sendo então removida, no caso de se reconhecer que occupa territorio brasileiro.

“Assim fição amigavelmente resolvidas duas difficuldades que pareião invenciveis. Havia, porém, outra que felizmente cessou: refiro-me á fundação do pretenso Estado Independente do Acre.

“O territorio cortado por esse rio e por outros que vêm da Bolivia é habitado quasi exclusivamente por Brasileiros, que se empregão na enploração dos seringaes. Nesta circumstancia e no presuppuesto de pertencer elle ao Brazil até ao parallelo de 10°20 Sul, buscárão os revolucionarios pretexto para o seu procedimento.

“Os revolucionarios, porém, já depuzerão as armas, deixando de existir o pretenso Estado Independente; está restabelecida a alfandega em Puerto Alonso e já ahi se acha o consul brasileiro; mas o Governo da Bolivia não tem naquella região, nem em outra parte do territorio, força que faça respeitar a sua soberania e as suas autoridades.

“O tratado de amizade, commercio e navegação, concluido em 1883, com o Paraguay, foi denunciado pelo seu Governo e cessou em Setembro de 1898. Para negociar outro tratado, o Governo Paraguayano enviou a esta Capital um Ministro Plenipotenciario, que propoz a renovação do primeiro com addições e novos artigos. A estipulação mais importante para o Paraguay era a do livre cambio entre elle e o Estado de Matto-Grosso, o que não convinha ao Brazil. A exportação daquelle Estado para a republica vizinha consiste quasi exclusivamente em gado; não haveria, pois, reciprocidade e a união ficaria privada de parte da sua renda. O Paraguay gosou das vantagens do livre cambio durante mais de vinte e seis annos, sem que melhorassem as condições do Estado de Matto-Grosso. Por estas razões adiou-se a negociação, declarando-se ao mesmo tempo que o Governo Brasileiro applicará a taxa minima aos productos do sólo e da industria do Paraguay, impor-

tados directamente pelo Estado de Matto-Grosse, se o Governo Paraguay correspondo a essa prova de boa vontade no tratamento dos productos do sólo e da industria daquelle estado, exportados directamente para o seu paiz.

“O regimen da tarifa dupla, autorizado pelo Congresso Nacional, originou a negociação de ajustes commerciaes com a França e a Italia.

“A França pediu o Governo Brasileiro a redução de 30 por cento nos direitos a que actualmente está sujeito o café brasileiro, isto é, 156 francos por 100 kilogrammas. O Governo Francez offereceu successivamente a de 10, 14 e 15 francos. A sua offerta não foi aceita e as negociações não têm progredido.

“Tambem pedimos á Italia a redução de 30 por cento e ella offerece reduzir os direitos de 150 a 120 libras com alguns favores que não compensão a differença entre o pedido e o concedido. Apenas me refiro ao ponto principal. Estão em andamento as negociações.

“Com a Hespanha ha apenas troca de informações.

“Tambem com a Legação dos Estados Unidos da America se tem tratado de ajuste commercial, mas a negociação ainda não tem character definido.

#### NEGOCIOS INTERIORES.

“Nesta Capital como nos Estados a ordem publica manteve-se sem alteração, não obstante o plano de uma conspiração aqui descoberto e que tinha por fim attentar contra o regimen republicano.

“Esta occurrencia, porém, longe de produzir desasoscego e inquietação no espirito publico, trouxe, ao contrario, na sua propria inaniidade, mais uma prova irrefragavel da indestructivel solidez e da absoluta estabilidade das instituições.

“O poder publico não sentio, sequer a necessidade de fazer uso dos meios extraordinarios, que a lei faculta, dada a imminencia de uma séria perturbação da publica ordem. Apesar da gravidade do facto, em sua natureza, elle não sahio dos dominios communs da policia, senão para ser entregue, com os esclarecimentos colhidos no respectivo inquerito, á competencia da Justiça Federal, onde o processo vai seguindo o seu curso.

“A actividade publica ou particular não soffreu, em qualquer das suas espheras, a mais ligeira interrupção; e já agora o paiz inteiro aguarda com a mais serena confiança a efficacia da acção normal da justiça. Isto quer dizer que, através das difficuldades por que temos passado, já chegámos ao estado tranquilizador, em que os apparelhos mais energicos de governo, destinados á acção rigorosamente decisiva das occasiões extremas, pôdem felizmente repousar, por isso mesmo que, nestes momentos de calma e de confiança, a guarda dos direitos da sociedade é funcção exclusiva de outro órgão do poder publico.

## LEGISLAÇÃO ELEITORAL.

“Na Mensagem de 3 de Maio do anno passado referi-me aos defeitos gravissimos da vigente legislação eleitoral, defeitos indicados pela experiencia e que devem ser eliminados quanto antes a bem do prestigio moral do suffragio.

\*                      \*                      \*                      \*                      \*

“Cumpre dar execução sincera e leal ao sabio preceito constitucional, que manda garantir a representação da minoria. É, minha convicção inabalavel que, quando essa clausula fôr traduzida em realidade, estarão, desde esse momento, definitivamente banidos dos comicios eleitoraes os excessos da violencia, que perturba, ou os ardis da fraude, que escandalisa, manifestações mais ou menos attenuadas pelo desalento, em que se encontrão aquelles que julgão nada poder esperar dos processos regulares.

“O inicio desta legislatura abre auspiciosa oportunidade para a urgente reforma.”

A mensagem recommenda a decretação de uma reforma judiciaria. Quanto á administração da guerra e marinha, as informações que nos offerece a mensagem são as mais auspiciosas. Os trabalhos de reparação dos navios de guerra estão muito adiantados, apezar de suprimidos dous arsenaes dentro do anno.

A mensagem refere-se ás differentes operações effectuadas sobre algumas estradas de ferro de propriedade nacional e declara que o governo continnará no firme proposito de transferir a emprezas particulares a gestão das estradas de ferro de propriedade da União. O Presidente affirma que a Estrada de Ferro Central do Brazil não tem sido objecto de nenhuma operação. As despesas de custeio dessa estrada no ultimo anno attingiram á cifra de 27,584,094\$175, ao passo que a receita foi de 32,527,860\$715.

## FINANÇAS.

“Posso annunciar, com verdadeiro contentamento que a administração da Republica entra agora em uma phase francamente auspiciosa, graças á collaboração do Congresso Nacional, que tem prestado com patriotica firmeza e orientação segura o seu indispensavel concurso para o desenvolvimento de uma politica financeira, amoldada ás exigencias excepcionaes da situação.

“A solidariedade dos esforços, a conformidade de vistas, a unidade de acção dos dous poderes tem sido e espero que continuarão a ser a origem fecunda de largos beneficios, que bem cedo farão sentir o reflexo de sua acção reparadora em todas as regiões da vida nacional.

“O Governo aguarda confiante a aproximação da data de 1º de Julho de 1901, termo do prazo fixado para a volta aos pagamentos em moeda.

“É-me grato poder assegurar-vos, não mais ante a simples perspectiva de lisonjeiras presumpções, mas em presença da garantia positiva dos meios accumulados, que o Thesouro se encontrará solidamente preparado para corresponder de prompto a todas as exigencias do vencimento, voltando ao regimen de indefectivel pontualidade.

“Para isto não será preciso pedir mais sacrificios nem submetter o credito publico a novas provas.

“O que cumpre agora é perseverar na pratica de rigorosas economias, dar estabilidade ao regimen fiscal estabelecido e imprimir a todas as espheras da administração esse character de permanencia e de continuidade, que assignalam as situações definitivas e preparam a realização das grandes obras do Governo.

“A diminuição evidente da intensidade da crise financeira e economica indica, de modo incontestavel, o acerto do ponto de vista em que os poderes publicos encararam a questão e a excellencia das medidas postas em pratica para debellal-as.

“A valorisação do meio circulante, traduzida pela elevação lenta, mas segura, e sobretudo pela fixidez relativa do cambio, indica claramente que o resgate do papel moeda, realizado não só pelas verbas destinadas a satisfazer os compromissos do contrato do *funding loan*, mas ainda, pelas sobras provenientes das economias nas despesas publicas, está produzindo os effeitos que delles se esperavam e se deviam esperar.

“A quantidade de papel moeda, que em Agosto de 1898 elevára-se á enorme cifra de 788,364,614\$500, estava reduzida, em 31 de Março findo, a 716,705,618\$000, havendo-se, pois, resgatado até esta data a quantia de 71,658,996\$500; sendo 55,600,000\$000, por conta do accordo do *funding loan* e 16,658,996\$500 por conta de debitos do Banco da Republica e desconto de notas.

“Realizada com toda a prudencia e cautela, a redução na circulação se fez sem perturbações prejudiciaes, e ao contrario, com vantagens reaes e positivas.

“O resgate deve ser este anno mais amplo, em virtude dos recursos creados pela lei que estabeleceu um fundo especial para esse fim.

“A lei já em execução, estabeleeendo um fundo de garantia para o papel moeda, vem sem duvida desenvolver a acção de resgate na valorisação do meio circulante, e a que extingue a faculdade emissora creada pela de 1875, vem dar estabilidade aquella valorisação e confiança na permanencia de seus resultados.

“Mas a massa de papel moeda não é o unico factor da taxa cambial; o valor da nossa exportação é outro e não menos importante; dahi a influencia notavel que a crise economica exercia sobre a crise financeira.

“A elevação do preço do nosso principal producto de exportação veio por isso combinar a sua acção com a do resgate na valorisação da nossa moeda.

“Os resultados obtidos neste ponto demonstram quanto foi acertada a politica economica do Governo, tão mal comprehendida e por isso tão censurada a principio. Sem o emprego de meios artificiaes, condemnados entre nos tantas vezes pela experiencia, a lavoura vai se levantando pouco a pouco e tudo leva a crer que breve a crise estará conjurada.

“A melhora que acabamos de notar na situação geral do paiz observa-se igualmente na situação do Thesouro.

“As dividas de exercicios findos têm sido fortemente reduzidas. As letras do Thesouro emittidas o anno passado, no valor de 11,000,000\$000, foram todas resgatadas dentro do exercicio.

“As indemnisações em virtude de sentenças federaes foram liquidadas em alguns milhares de contos de reis, e todas ellas com reduções extremamente favoraveis ao Thesouro.

“Liquidando as dividas passivas, o Governo tem procurado liquidar tambem as dividas activas.

“Foi assim que, usando da auctorisação legislativa, liquidou os debitos do Banco da Republica, colhendo por essa forma recurso para os fundos de garantia e resgate do papel moeda.

“Esses debitos, de liquidação demorada e sujeita a todos os azares das operações bancarias, em prazos extremamente longos, foram liquidados por meio de descontos identicos aos estabelecidos pelo Governo passado, para casos analagos e perfeitamente semelhantes aos descontos commerciaes e aos das proprias letras do Thesouro.

“Si debaixo do ponto de vista commercial a operação foi vantajosa para o Thesouro, sob o ponto da vista da administração e da politica os seus resultados não foram inferiores.

“As ligações que existiam entre o Banco e o Thesouro geravam uma situação igualmente perniciosa para ambos; de um lado, emissões repetidas de papel moeda para emprestar ao Banco; de outro lado, immobilisação dos capitaes do Banco, em fundos publicos, sob a pressão do Governo. Foi esta a situação que se poz fim, com a operação realizada.

“Os titulos de divida do Uruguay, recebidos por encontro de contas com o Banco da Republica, foram, por meio de uma operação feliz, trocados por titulos brasileiros em condições muito vantajosas, sendo os uruguayos cotados a 59 e os brasileiros a 60; o que produz uma amortização em nossa divida em ouro, dos emprestimos de 1879, 1883 e 1888, de perto de 700,000 libras esterlinas.

“Esta amortisação, reunida á dos titulos de 1868 e 1889, servirão, si não para annullar de todo, ao menos para diminuir os nossos encargos em ouro, provenientes da emissão de titulos do *funding loan*.

“Não se realizaram felizmente as apprehensões daquelles que, attendendo á pobreza do paiz, em virtude do forte abaixamento do preço do café, acreditavam que os impostos em ouro nas alfandegas

acarretariam uma diminuição notavel nas rendas aduaneiras. Ao contrario, ellas foram alem de todos os calculos optimistas.

“Com effeito, só a renda de importação para consumo attingio ao algarismo de 18,483,225\$000 ouro e 181,529,507\$000 papel, o que dá, reduzindo tudo a papel, a taxa de 77/16, media do anno, a quantia de 248,628,274\$000, superior de 2,416,014\$000 á do anno de 1896, considerada a maior renda de importação nas alfandegas do Brazil.

“A renda total arrecadada nas alfandegas elevou-se a 18,897,217\$000 ouro e 201,151,153\$000 papel, ou, reduzido tudo a papel, a 269,752,-815\$000.

“O imposto de consumo, que em 1898, produzio 14,548,175\$000, deu em 1899 24,930,246\$000, isto é, mais 10,382,071\$000.

“A renda do imposto de sello elevou-se a 9,088,057\$000; a renda total interior a 78,600,000\$000 e a extraordinaria, a 17,342,000\$000.

“O total das rendas da União, em 1899, pelos dados que possui o Thesouro, que não são ainda completos, eleva-se a 302,693,000\$000 papel. Si accrescentarmos a esse total a renda do semestre adicional, calculada pela arrecadação em igual periodo do exercicio anterior de 11,561,000\$000, teremos 314,254,000\$000 papel.

“A renda em ouro elevou-se nas alfandegas a 18,897,217\$000 que, reunida á de 520,489\$296 de outras origens, produz 19,416,706\$396.

“A despesa em papel para o mesmo exercicio elevou-se a 225,942,-225\$000 e a feita em ouro attingio a 14,092,046\$000.

“Deduzindo as despesas das rendas da mesma especie, ter-se-ha um saldo de 88,311,770\$000 papel, e 5,325,660\$296 ouro.

“Os creditos abertos nos diversos ministerios em 1899, elevaram-se a 34,314,508\$668; desta quantia, porem, deve-se deduzir 7,253,-591\$100, que representa apenas movimento de fundos da Estrada de Ferro Central, ficando pois o valor desses creditos reduzido a 27,000,817\$566. Si deduzirmos esta quantia e mais a de 45,-000,000\$000 proveniente do resgate do papel moeda em virtude do accordo do *funding loan*, do saldo em papel acima demonstrado, teremos como resultado final: saldo em papel, 16,250,957\$534, e em ouro, 5,325,660\$296.

“Quanto ao corrente anno nada de positivo se pode affirmar.

“De um lado, os dados que possuímos sobre o 1º trimestre são extremamente incompletos; de outro lado, as rendas aduaneiras nesse periodo com a antecipação da importação em Dezembro do anno findo, não exprimem de modo algum a fracção correspondente da renda do actual exercicio.

“O estudo, porem, das condições geraes do paiz e do movimento das rendas nos leva a crer com convicção, que não teremos no actual exercicio renda inferior á do anno findo.

“Em resumo: Valorisação lenta, mas gradualmente progressiva, de nossa moeda, manifestada pela subida e fixidez do cambio; valorisação



da nossa exportação e consequente augmento da fortuna publica, manifestada pel alta do preço do café; restabelecimento cada vez maior do credito do Brazil, manifestado pela alta notavel dos nossos titulos no exterior e pela tendencia que se vai accentuando da entrada de capitães estrangeiros; saldos orçamentarios provenientes de redução de despesas e de augmento sensivel das nossas rendas; certeza da parte do Governo e confiança cada vez mais accentuada dos nossos credores da volta ao pagamento em especie de nossos compromissos no exterior. Taes são os resultados do esforço e da dedicação, não só do congresso e do governo, mas tambem, é justo dizel-o, do povo brasileiro, que não se tem negado aos grandes sacrificios a elles pedidos para o restabelecimento do credito da Republica.”

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## BRAZIL.

### **PROPOSTAS SOLICITADAS PARA A INSTALAÇÃO DE UMA FABRICA DE POLVORA SEM FUMAÇA.**

O Governo dos Estados Unidos do Brazil resolveu abrir concurren-  
cia para a installação no seu territorio de uma fabrica de polvora sem  
fumaça. Os concorrentes deverão remetter amostras das differentes  
marcas de polvora que fabricam, comprehendendo as polvoras formadas  
pelas nitro-celluloses finas ou por estas e pela nitro-glycerina até 25 por  
cento, e as que encerrarem, além do nitro-celluloses, outros derivados  
nitrados organicos ou nitratos mineraes que se prestem ao emprego  
nas armas de guerra. As propostas e amostras deverão achar-se no  
porto do Rio de Janeiro dentro do prazo de seis mezes após a primeira  
publicação do edital na Europa e nos Estados Unidos.

### **NOVA COMPANHIA DE VIAÇÃO FERREA FLUVIAL.**

Extrahimos do “Jornal do Commercio” o seguinte :

“Organizou-se na Belgica, com o capital de vinte milhões, a Com-  
panhia de Viação Ferrea Fluvial do Tocantins e Araguaya. Entraram  
os Belgas com 14 milhões e terão acções privilegiadas; pagaram cinco  
milhões e meio de acções ordinarias e darão 500,000 francos para paga-  
mento das commissões. Entraram acções de dividendo, que repre-  
sentam o lucro do syndicato que fez o negocio.

As acções privilegiadas e as ordinarias terão o dividendo de 6 por  
cento.

### **IMPORTAÇÃO DO RIO DE JANEIRO.**

Segundo o “Boletim da Alfandega” o valor official das mercadorias  
importadas pelo porto do Rio de Janeiro, em Fevereiro ultimo, foi de  
8,776,462\$378. Concorreram principalmente para essa importação:  
A Grã Bretanha, com 2,154,925\$253; Uruguay, com 1,475,042\$566;

Allemanha, com 1,450,347\$761; Estados Unidos, com 875,854\$614; França, com 704,005\$222; Portugal, com 646,754\$484; Republica Argentina, com 643,620\$800; Belgica, com 580,787\$356; Italia, com 189,777\$719, e diversos, com 55,198\$588.

### IMPORTAÇÃO DE SÃO PAULO.

Segundo o relatorio da Secretaria da Agricultura para 1899, se vê que a importação de S. Paulo pelo porto de Santos foi de 90,740,-272\$765, ao passo que a exportação attingio á cifra de 268,661,857\$545, ou um excesso da exportação sobre a importação de cerca de 178,000,-000\$000. A importação da banha, carnes conservadas, leite condensado, manteiga, peixes seccos ou salgados, toucinho, fructas, farinhas, massas alimenticias, licores, bebidas alcoolicas e vinho, baixou de 50,027,350\$932 em 1898, a 38,652,175\$270 em 1899.

### MINAS DE OURO.

Lemos no “Minas Geraes”: Na cidade de Caethé acaba de ser vendida por 400,000\$000 a um syndicato inglez, a lavra de ouro denominada Juca Vieira.

No mesmo municipio outro syndicato inglez explora actualmente mediante contrato de arrendamento por prazo certo e com opção de compra a lavra Boa Esperança.

Em Santa Barbara estão em plena actividade a exploração e extracção do ouro. A companhia S. BENTO está exportando mensalmente o producto de suas ricas jazidas.

E as minas de Santa Quiteria, de propriedade da familia Penna, estão arrendadas por tres annos a um syndicato inglez que tem dentro do mesmo prazo opção de compra da propriedade.

A este respeito é notavel a riqueza aurifera existente no trecho de 10 leguas que vai do Sabará a Santa Barbara, sendo o Caethé o centro.

De accordo com a tabella No. 1 do livro que sob o titulo “L’or à Minas Geraes” publicou em 1894 o já fallecido lente da Escola de Minas, Dr. PAUL FERRAND, estão situadas nesta pequena zona mais da metade das jazidas de ouro existentes em todo o Estado de Minas.

## ESTADOS UNIDOS.

### CONDIÇÃO DAS COLHEITAS.

Segundo o relatorio mensal publicado pela Repartição de Estatistica da Secretaria de Agricultura, havia no dia 1° deste mez 24,908,000 geiras de terreno semeadas de trigo de inverno, ou 5,240,000 geiras menos que a area semeada no outono. A condição do trigo de inverno o 1° do corrente mez era 82.7, contra 90.8 para igual mez de 1898 e 80.7, que tem sido a média durante os ultimos dez annos.

Os relatorios preliminares sobre a area semeada de trigo de primavera mostram uma redução de 567,000 geiras, ou 2.9 por cento.

A condição do trigo de primavera o 1º de Junho era de 87.3, contra 91.4 na mesma data de 1899 e 93 que foi a média durante dez annos.

Os terrenos semeados de aveia na data indicada eram um 3.9 por cento mais que em 1899. A condição da aveia é de 91.7, contra 88.7, o 1º de Junho de 1899 e 89.8, que foi a condição média durante dez annos.

A area semeada de cevada é  $\frac{6}{10}$  de 1 por cento maior que em 1899. A condição média da cevada é 86.2, contra 91.4 o 1º de Junho de 1899 e 88.5 que tem sido a condição média durante dez annos.

A area semeada de centeio é 4.1 por cento menor que em 1899, e a condição média deste grão é 87.6, contra 84.5 o 1º de Junho de 1899 e 89.9, que tem sido a média durante dez annos.

A area semeada de trifolio e sua condição média não se podem determinar de uma maneira exacta.

Quanto aos pecegos e maçãs as informações recebidas são muito auspiciosas.

#### CONSULADO DE NOVA YORK.

Do relatorio do Consul FONTOURA XAVIER, referente ao anno findo, transcrevemos o seguinte:

Do mappa No. 1 consta que sahiram para o Brazil 223 embarcações, sommando 242,467 toneladas, com 4,863 homens de equipagem; e entraram do Brazil 303 embarcações, sommando 368,855 toneladas, com 7,222 homens de equipagem.

O valor exportado em moeda nacional, cambio par, foi de 20,790,505\$231, e o importado de 109,998,489\$120. Comparando estes algarismos com os do anno de 1898, vê-se que houve um decrescimo na exportação no valor de 4,308,567\$006 e um augmento na importação no valor de 14,632,202\$370.

Do mappa No. 2 consta que os principaes productos exportados foram: banha de porco, 13,891,819 libras; farinha de trigo, 628,754 barricas; kerozene, 16,383,813 galões; madeira de construção, 38,702,000 pés; terebenthina, 122,462 galões; toucinho, 11,864 barricas e 4,287 caixas; trigo, 18,540 alqueires.

Comparando estes algarismos com os do anno de 1898, vê-se que houve decrescimo na exportação de todos esses generos, a saber: na banha de porco, de 3,356,831 libras; na farinha de trigo, de 954,858 barricas; no kerosene, de 4,752,514 galões; na madeira de construção, de 12,117,000 pés; na terebenthina, de 97,127 galões; no toucinho, de 21,222 barricas e 1,047 caixas; no trigo, de 143,161 alqueires.

Do mappa No. 3 consta que os principaes productos de importação foram: assucar, 28,035,390 libras e 14,000 saccas; borracha, 29,426,315 libras; cacáo, 3,922,659 libras; café, 674,560,783 libras; courinhos,

3,386,798 libras; couros, 6,815,342 libras; pelles, 1,724,846 libras; frutas no valor de 317,093\$250; productos chimicos no valor de 101,616\$240. Comparando estes algarismos com os do anno de 1898, vê-se que houve augmento na importação: da borracha, de 7,225,983 libras; do cacáo, de 135,523 libras; do café, de 69,866,743 libras; de pelles, de 319,598 libras. Houve decrescimo na importação: de couros, de 563,749 libras; de couros, de 33,740 libras.

Do mappa No. 4 consta a cotação official do cambio, mensalmente e os fretes, que variaram de 5 a 66 centavos por pé cubico, conforme os diferentes portos especificados no mesmo mappa.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHIA.

Nesta secção do Boletim Mensal se tratará dos livros e folhetos enviados á Secretaria das Republicas Americanas que se referem a assumptos de interesse aos paizes da União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

O "Yearbook," correspondente ao anno de 1899, acaba de ser publicado pelo Departamento da Agricultura.

A disposição geral dos artigos é a mesma que se tem seguido por muitos annos mas tem-se feito alguma modificação quanto á natureza dos assumptos comprehendidos na segunda parte. De conformidade com a lei, a primeira parte do volume é dedicada ao Relatorio Annual do Secretario da Agricultura. A segunda parte consta de 26 memorias, as quaes dão uma resenha comprehensiva do progresso e desenvolvimento feito, durante um seculo, em todos os ramos da sciencia que tem relação á agricultura. Essas memorias são em maior parte historicas, e demonstram o desenvolvimento da sciencia nos Estados Unidos durante o seculo dez e nove, no que se refere á agricultura. Varias dellas já tem sido publicadas no BOLETIM MENSAL durante o anno.

A terceira parte, ou ó supplemento, tem sido augmentado e contem muitos dados valiosos aos que se interessam na agricultura pratica ou scientifica. Constitue um livro de consulta, contendo não só o directorio do Departamento da Agricultura, o directorio de collegios e estações experimentaes de agricultura, a lista dos funcionarios estadoaes da agricultura, os secretarios das associações agricolas e officialidade de associações congeneres, mas dados sobre assumptos agricolas de interesse a todos os residentes de districtos ruraes.

O "Yearbook" forma um volume de 880 paginas, com 63 illustrações além do frontispicio, e 33 diagrammas explicatorios do texto. A edição ordinaria consta de 500,000 exemplares, dos quaes 470,000 estão para o uso exclusivo de Senadores e Deputados do Congresso Nacional, e 30,000 estão destinados ao Departamento de Agricultura. Em virtude de uma resolução do Congresso, será publicada uma edição espe-

cial do "Yearbook" para 1899, elegantemente encadernada, para ser distribuída na Exposição de Pariz.

Temos recebido o numero segundo da Revista Industrial e Mercantil, correspondente aos mezes de Fevereiro e Março do corrente anno. Esta é uma publicação mensal de propriedade do Sr. IGNACIO NERY DA FONSECA, e redigida pelos illustrados Drs. ANTONIO DE SOUZA PINTO e ALCEDO MARROCOS, com a collaboração de especialistas e competentes de todos os Estados da União. Segundo o seu artigo de apresentação publicado no primeiro numero correspondente a Janeiro, a revista será dedicada á publicação das leis, decretos e regulamentos que interessam ao commercio e á industria, das estatisticas, das questões de doutrina sobre a politica geral e a sciencia economica, como das produções de cada Estado da Republica, preços dos artigos, meios de transporte, casas de negocio, fabricas, etc.

O presente numero forma um volume, em 4º grande, de quasi 200 paginas, e traz o seguinte summario: I, Tarifa das Alfandegas; II, Orçamento da Receita Geral da Republica; III, Orçamento da Despesa Geral da Republica; IV, Orçamento do Estado de Pernambuco; V, Orçamento do Estado do Ceará; VI, Orçamento do Estado das Alagoas; VII, Orçamento do Estado do Pará; VIII, A Recente Crise do Café; IX, Regulamento para a Arrecadação dos Impostos de Consumo; X, Irrigação; XI, Laboratorio Nacional de Analyses; XII, Novo Regulamento do Sello Federal; XIII, Decisões do Ministerio da Fazenda; XIV, Guia Postal e Telegraphica; XV, Contracto de 15 de Junho de 1898; XVI, Boletim das Commissões de Tarifa (Pernambuco e Pará); XVII, As Finanças da Republica; XVIII, Explicação necessaria; XIX, Noticiario; XX, Agradecimento; XXI, Estatistica Commercial do Recife.

A "Revista Maritima Brasileira" consagrou o No. 11 do seu xix. anno á commemoração do 4º centenario do descobrimento do Brazil. O artigo intitulado "A Armada de Cabral e a Descoberta do Brazil" narra a historia do descobrimento, apreciando os factos que antecederam e motivaram as grandes expedições, e dá depois a palavra ao Escrivão da Armada, PERO LOPES CAMINHA. Reunidos sob o titulo "Elementos nauticos das descobertas" ha varios capitulos com os seguintes titulos: Os navios da Armada de Cabral; Os Instrumentos de Navegação; O Armamento da Esquadra; Bandeiras; Pessoal da Armada; Lotação dos Navios; Vencimentos do Pessoal; A vida a Bordo das Caravellas; Os Alojamentos, Camas, Alimentação, Uniforme, O Fogão, Luzes, Praticas Religiosas.

Este numero da "Revista Maritima Brasileira" contem bellas illustrações reproduzindo: "A caravela do Seculo XVI; Caravela Latina; Não Redonda; Caravela Redonda; Agulha do Seculo XVI; Bombarda em Bateria; O Fogão das Caravelas.

Die Entdeckung und der Entdecker Brasiliens (O Descobrimento e o Descobridor do Brazil) é o titulo de uma obra recentemente publicada por BRUNO STYSINSKI. Como o titulo o indica, o assumpto tratado é o descobrimento e o descobridor do Brazil. O primeiro capitulo é consagrado ás descobertas dos Potuguezes no ultimo quartel do seculo xv. O segundo capitulo trata do descobrimento do Brazil. Outro contem uma noticia biographica de PEDRO ALVARES CABRAL. O quarto e quinto capitulos tratam do Brazil e dos seus habitantes na epoca da descoberta, colonisação e civilisação.

O Auctor passa em revista as expedições colonisadoras enviadas pela metropole, as invasões de Hespanhões, Francezes e Hollandezes e as guerras civis. No seu livro o Sr. STYSINSKI mostrou ter perfeito conhecimento de quasi todos os documentos historicos relativamente ao Brazil.

“Economic Grasses” é o titulo de um pamphleto recentemente publicado pelo Departamento da Agricultura dos Estados Unidos. Esta publicação contem curtas descripções das principaes gramineas forrageiras indigenas aos Estados Unidos ou as que tem sido introduzidas de paizes estrangeiros. O pamphleto contem descripções de 252 especies de gramineas, com tres illustrações e 91 diagrammas explicatorios do texto.

Acaba de sahir á luz a segunda parte das “Aves do Brazil,” pelo eminente zoologo Sr. EMILIO GOELDI, Director do Museo Paraense, ao qual a Historia Natural do Brazil já deve relevantes serviços. Este livro é de muito valor scientifico.

# BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

## BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

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VOL. VIII.

JUIN 1900.

No. 6.

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### CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE AMÉRICAINNE.

Les membres de l'Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines se sont réunis le 13 juin 1900 dans la salle diplomatique du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington.

Les pays suivants étaient représentés:

République Argentine, Chili, Colombie, Costa Rica, Equateur, Etats-Unis, Guatémala, Haïti, Mexique, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Pérou, San Salvador et Vénézuéla.

Le but de la réunion était de fixer la date et la localité où doit avoir lieu la Conférence Internationale Américaine. Señor ASPIROZ, Ambassadeur du Mexique, a fait part de l'invitation officielle de son gouvernement, demandant que la conférence ait lieu dans la ville de Mexico.

Les membres de l'Union ont accepté cette invitation et ont offert leurs sincères remerciements au Gouvernement mexicain. On a décidé de laisser aux Gouvernements du Mexique et des Etats-Unis la latitude de fixer la date de la réunion de la Conférence.

A une réunion du Comité Exécutif de l'Union Internationale qui a eu lieu le 15 juin 1900, il a été décidé que la Conférence aurait lieu dans la ville de Mexico, à une date quelconque, entre les mois d'avril et de juillet 1901. Le Gouvernement mexicain fixera la date définitive de la réunion de la Conférence et enverra les invitations.

## L'INDUSTRIE DU TABAC EN FEUILLES AUX ETATS-UNIS.

La plus grande source de revenus aux Etats-Unis est le tabac qui est cultivé dans plus de la moitié des états de l'Union. Cependant, le tabac est, strictement parlant, une plante semi-tropicale qui possède les variétés particulières de la zone tempérée du Nord. La Virginie, le Kentucky et le Tennessee sont les principaux états productifs dans l'ordre ci-dessus indiqué. Pendant les trente années qui viennent de s'écouler, la culture du tabac a rapporté aux Etats-Unis plus de \$1,000,000,000. Quoique le tabac produit aux Etats-Unis paye une taxe considérable dans son propre pays, les droits d'importation auxquels il est soumis à l'étranger sont encore plus élevés, aidant ainsi à maintenir plusieurs royaumes européens. Le tabac des Etats-Unis est divisé en quatre classes, qui sont:

La "shipping leaf" de Tennessee, c'est-à-dire les feuilles qui peuvent s'exporter; les feuilles séminales qui poussent dans la vallée du Connecticut, Pensylvanie et quelques parties de l'Ohio; la "bright leaf," feuille qui a une couleur éclatante et qui est particulière à la Virginie et à la Caroline du Nord et les fameuses feuilles dont le nom local est "white-burley," qui sont cultivées dans l'Ohio, le Kentucky, le Tennessee et le Missouri. Le Tennessee produit annuellement 60,000,000 livres environ de feuilles qui peuvent être exportées appelées "drinker" "buveuses," parcequ'elles absorbent en eau un tiers de leurs poids quand elles arrivent en Europe. Cette espèce de feuille a un caractère particulier et des qualités précieuses, elle est mince, dure, gommeuse et ressemble au cuir. Elle est cultivée sur les sols riches, rouges, phosphatés d'une demi douzaine de comtés de cet état. Le rendement moyen par acre est d'environ 800 livres quoique 1,500 et 1,800 livres par acre aient été produites à des périodes différentes dans les localités favorisées. Les feuilles séchées sont préparées pour le marché anglais, où elles sont expédiées en très grande quantité après que la veine principale en a été enlevée et qu'elles ont été emballées aussi sèches que possible.

Comme ce tabac paie en Angleterre un droit de 75 cents par livre, chaque livre d'eau qu'il absorbe, après qu'il a passé à la douane, veut dire 75 cents que l'importateur met dans sa poche quand il le vend. Ce pouvoir particulier d'absorption fait que le tabac du Tennessee est préféré sur le marché d'Europe, d'Afrique et ailleurs. On dit que la ville de Clarksville, Tennessee, est le plus grand marché du monde pour le tabac noir, et beaucoup d'acheteurs étrangers envoient là leurs agents établir leurs résidences. Les achats pour l'expédition à l'étranger sont faits par les agents des différents gouvernements, excepté pour l'Angle-



terre et l'Allemagne. Ces agents sont munis d'un contrat connu sous le nom de "Contrats de la régie," d'après lesquels une certaine quantité de tabac de qualité garantie, doit être fournie à un prix fixe, à l'administration des tabacs. Ceci est vrai en ce qui concerne les agents pour la France, l'Autriche, l'Italie et l'Espagne, ces différents gouvernements ayant le monopole du tabac et les autorités fixant les prix que les consommateurs doivent payer.

Le tabac connu sous le nom de "white burley" fut découvert par hasard, il ya 40 ans environ, dans le comté Brown, Ohio. C'est une variété qui doit être séchée par l'action de l'air et que l'on suspend dans des séchoirs construits de façon à donner accès à l'air de tous les côtés, sans toutefois permettre à la pluie et à la neige d'y pénétrer. Les feuilles sont dépouillées de leurs tiges et assorties ensuite selon leur dimension et leur qualité, et emballées dans des boucauts qui sont ensuite expédiés à des marchands en gros de Cincinnati, Ohio, ou Louisville, Kentucky, qui les vendent. On emploie la plupart des variétés du "white burley" à manufacturer le tabac à chiquer pour la marine. Le rendement annuel est d'environ 50,000 boucauts, pesant de 1,000 à 1,500 livres chacun.

Il n'existe aux Etats-Unis aucune grande plantation de tabac, la plus grande partie de ce produit est cultivée dans des petits morceaux de terre ou des champs. On estime la grandeur de la récolte au nombre de plantes et non en mesurant le nombre d'acres. Un acre contient 4,000 plantes et l'aire entière cultivée aux Etats-Unis, n'excède pas, dans aucune année, 500,000 acres. La culture du tabac coûte très chère et demande une attention continuelle, depuis le moment où on le plante jusqu'au jour où il est expédié sur les marchés. On dit qu'une once de graines de tabac peut produire 300,000 plantes car les graines sont extrêmement petites, et quand on les sème on les mélange avec des cendres pour les séparer. Les graines sont semées en couche dans un terrain inculte qui a été préalablement préparé et sur lequel on a entassé une épaisse couverture de troncs d'arbres et de broussailles que l'on réduit ensuite en cendre; les graines qui produisent la "shipping leaf" étant semées en janvier et celles qui produisent les autres variétés en février.

Après que la terre est devenue complètement froide, on la bêche et on y sème les graines. Une couche qui a 20 pieds carrés fournit assez de plantes pour remplir 20 acres. On couvre les jeunes plantes d'une toile légère jusqu'au moment où elles sont transplantées, opération qui se fait du 1<sup>er</sup> au 15 mai, quand le temps est humide on immédiatement après une pluie légère. Pendant les six premières semaines, les planteurs sont occupés à faire sarcler, labourer et chausser les plantes, un homme et un cheval ou un mulet étant requis pour chaque 12 acres. La plante du tabac s'élève à une hauteur de 3 ou 4 pieds, les feuilles poussent dans toutes les directions et les rejetons qui poussent à

l'endroit où chaque feuille se joint à la tige, sont élagués afin de concentrer toute la force de la plante dans les feuilles et, pour la même raison, on châtre les tiges du tabac.

Il est nécessaire de surveiller les plantes afin de les empêcher d'être mangées par les puces, les escarbots, les sauterelles et les criquets. L'ennemi le plus dangereux de la plante est l'insecte connu sous le nom de "ver à cornes" ou "ver de tabac," qui a 3 pouces de longueur quand il a atteint toute sa croissance, une couleur vert foncé, une tête ronde et deux cornes rouges pointues à l'extrémité de la queue. Ce ver est la larve d'un insecte qui vole la nuit, nommé "meunier," ainsi appelé parcequ'il est couvert d'une substance qui ressemble à de la farine. Un ver de cette espèce, lorsqu'il est arrivé à son entier développement, peut dévorer une feuille en une nuit. Pendant la prédominance de ces vers, c'est tout au plus si un homme peut s'occuper de 4 acres.

Quand elles sont en pleine maturité, les feuilles de tabac se recourbent jusqu'à ce qu'elles paraissent être seulement la moitié de la dimension qu'elles avaient quand elles étaient vertes; elles prennent alors une surface tachetée et grenelée, aussi épaisse au toucher que le cuir. Quelques planteurs enlèvent la queue des feuilles et attachent ces dernières sur des fils métalliques; mais, généralement, ils fendent chaque tige dans le milieu, la coupent depuis la racine et mettent la plante ainsi partagée sans dessus dessous sur la terre jusqu'à ce qu'elle soit entièrement flétrie, la placent ensuite sur des bâtons et l'emportent dans les séchoirs pour être préparée. Quand on manufacture le tabac, excepté le "white burley," les séchoirs sont chauffés jour et nuit jusqu'à ce que l'humidité du tabac ait complètement disparue. On trie alors les feuilles en mettant de côté celles qui sont mangées des vers, ou qui sont mauvaises, et on fait des paquets de la meilleure qualité en réunissant ensemble celles de même longueur. Le pressage du tabac se fait au moyen d'une vis en fer, tournant dans un écrou qui a été fixé dans une ferme massive. On place au dessous de cette ferme un boucaut que l'on remplit de tout le tabac qu'il peut contenir, on fonce alors le boucaut et on presse sur le fond supérieur au moyen d'une vis et de blocs de bois jusqu'à ce que le premier remplissage soit réduit à un cinquième environ de son volume primitif, et on répète cette opération jusqu'à ce qu'il ne soit plus possible au boucaut de contenir quoique ce soit.

Dans chaque marché au tabac du pays, il y a, dans les entrepôts, un inspecteur salarié qui est aussi un fonctionnaire assermenté. Quand le tabac est vendu aux enchères, le boucaut est brisé en moreaux, laissant ainsi apparaître la masse compacte du tabac dont l'inspecteur retire trois échantillons au moyen d'un instrument en fer, appelé en Amérique "breaking-iron." Si, après examen, le tabac n'est pas trouvé le même que l'échantillon montré par l'inspecteur, la personne

qui a vendu le tabac à l'entreposeur est responsable envers l'acheteur. Dans quelques états on considère comme un crime de mélanger le tabac inférieur et de rebut avec celui de qualité supérieure, surtout quand ce mélange est fait dans un but frauduleux.

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## LE SUCRE COMME ALIMENT.

La haute prime d'encouragement payée pour la production du sucre dans les pays d'Europe où la betterave est cultivée, soutenant d'un autre côté la concurrence avec les pays qui produisent le sucre de canne, a une tendance naturelle à créer un excès de production. La probabilité d'un tel résultat a déjà dirigé l'attention des pays principaux qui produisent le sucre de betterave vers quelques moyens certains pour empêcher une abondance, tout en augmentant la consommation du pays. Des savants ont déjà fait à ce sujet de nouvelles expériences très intéressantes, afin de démontrer et de prouver que le sucre a une grande valeur nutritive pour l'homme et les animaux. On croit qu'une démonstration satisfaisante de ce fait fera adopter le sucre comme ration distribuée aux troupes qui composent les grands commandements européens, et aura, par conséquent, pour résultat, d'augmenter considérablement la consommation.

Dans un rapport récent, le consul des Etats-Unis à Magdebourg, Allemagne, dit qu'on pourrait augmenter, sans hésitation, la quantité de sucre consommée individuellement, car il a de nombreuses propriétés d'une très grande valeur, est un aliment qui s'assimilent promptement au corps humain et à celui de l'animal et a aussi le pouvoir de produire la chaleur et la force. Le sucre a depuis longtemps été employé pour développer la force, principalement par les grimpeurs de montagnes; il possède aussi la qualité de faire engraisser. Les produits que fabriquent les sucreries avec le sucre, tels que les mélasses qui contiennent 50 pour cent environ de sucre et que l'on mélange avec de la farine de palmier, sont déjà beaucoup employés comme nourriture pour le bétail. Le but principal de ces expériences a été cependant de s'assurer si, oui ou non, le sucre possède le pouvoir d'augmenter ou de restaurer rapidement les forces et conséquemment de rendre l'homme capable de supporter les travaux les plus pénibles.

Beaucoup ont soutenu et prouvé que le sucre est réellement une substance qui augmente les forces, d'autres qu'il est simplement un stimulant, car, ne contenant aucun hydrate de carbone, il ne peut être une substance nutritive. Cependant dans deux expériences dont les résultats ont été tout d'abord contraires, on a constaté que le sucre n'avait pas l'effet désiré quand l'homme, sur lequel l'expérience était tentée, avait toute sa vigueur, mais que quand il s'était fatigué en tournant

une roue lourde, il recouvrait ses forces en mangeant du sucre. Il paraît être accepté en Allemagne, aussi bien que prouvé que le sucre est un aliment fortifiant. Pendant les manœuvres allemandes on a fait de grandes expériences sur des soldats qui ont donné des résultats médiocres, et on pense que si les soldats mangeaient une demi douzaine de morceaux de sucre de plus par jour, ils pourraient endurer plus facilement les fatigues. On croit au moins utile de continuer les expériences.

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## PRODUCTION DE L'OR ET DE L'ARGENT.

Les chiffres de la production de l'or et de l'argent dans toutes les parties du monde, pendant l'année 1899, ont été récemment publiés dans un numéro du "Engineering and Mining Journal." D'après les statistiques compilées par ce journal, l'Australie était le pays produisant la plus grande quantité d'or, contribuant à l'approvisionnement d'or pur du monde pour une valeur évaluée à \$79,206,180 en monnaie courante des Etats-Unis. La République Sud-Africaine (Transvaal) occupait le second rang parmi les plus grands producteurs, la valeur de l'or produit étant estimée à \$72,961,501 et les Etats-Unis, la 3<sup>ème</sup> place sur la liste, l'or produit dans ce pays se montant à une valeur de \$70,096,021. La Russie figurait au 4<sup>ème</sup> rang avec \$23,963,017, pendant que le Canada, le 5<sup>ème</sup> dans l'ordre, avait une production évaluée à \$21,049,730.

Aux Etats-Unis, l'Etat qui a produit la plus grande quantité d'or a été le Colorado qui a suppléé plus d'un tiers de la production totale du pays et plus que l'entière production de la Russie, ou une valeur de \$26,508,765. L'Etat de la Californie venait après avec une production évaluée à \$14,800,000, le rendement pour chacun des autres Etats produisant des quantités de ce métal précieux était relativement peu important, comparé à celui de l'un ou l'autre des deux Etats nommés.

Le total de la production de l'or du monde se montait à \$312,307,819, contre \$286,803,462 en 1898, et \$237,833,984 en 1897. Pendant l'année 1899, l'Australie, le Transvaal, les Etats-Unis, la Russie et le Canada, ont fourni 86 pour cent de l'approvisionnement de l'or du monde. On a pensé que la production de ce métal précieux serait moins grande en 1900 qu'elle n l'était en 1899, étant donnée la diminution du rendement de la République Sud-Africaine; il est probable, cependant, que la production de l'or continuera à augmenter un peu partout. La production à Alaska, particulièrement dans les régions du Cap Nome, sera indubitablement plus grande en 1900 qu'elle n l'était en 1899.

Les chiffres revus et corrigés, concernant la production de l'argent dans le monde entier pendant l'année 1899, donnent un total général de

\$104,100,163 en monnaie courante des Etats-Unis, évalué juste un tiers environ autant que l'or produit cette année. La quantité la plus forte était produite par les Etats-Unis, \$34,036,168; le Mexique suivant de près avec une production se montant à \$32,788,565. L'Etat de Colorado était comme pour l'or, le premier Etat productif de l'Union, son rendement étant évalué à \$13,771,731, pendant que la production de l'Etat de Montana se montait à \$10,039,680. Les indices sont que la valeur de l'argent produit en 1900 variera très peu de celle de 1899. Cette production était évaluée en 1898 à \$105,364,605.

## LA PRODUCTION DE L'ACIER DU MONDE.

D'après le "Moniteur des intérêts matériels," les chiffres suivants représenteraient la production de l'acier du monde:

	1898.	1899.		1898.	1899.
	<i>Tonnes.</i>	<i>Tonnes.</i>		<i>Tonnes.</i>	<i>Tonnes.</i>
Grande Bretagne.....	4,565,300	4,565,325	Russie .....	1,153,000	1,250,000
Etats-Unis .....	8,829,500	10,533,670	Suède .....	265,121	257,000
Allemagne .....	5,734,307	6,290,434	Italie .....	60,000	80,000
France .....	1,441,633	1,529,182	Espagne .....	90,000	120,000
Belgique .....	653,130	729,920			
Autriche-Hongrie .....	860,000	950,000	Total .....	23,651,991	26,595,531

En 1880, la production totale du monde se montait à 4,192,008 tonnes. Actuellement, 70 pour cent du saumon de fonte sont convertis en acier.

## NOUVEL EMPLOI DE LA CHALEUR ÉLECTRIQUE.

La chaleur électrique pour la soudure et la trempe est employée avec succès, aux Etats-Unis, à beaucoup d'usages. Pour tremper les ressorts d'une montre ou ceux d'une horloge, elle est absolument sans rivale à cause de la rapidité et de la facilité avec lesquelles on peut la manipuler et la régler. Dans un des plus grands établissements du pays qui fabriquent les chariots, les charrettes, etc., les charrons emploient l'électricité pour souder les bandes des roues. La fabrique qui produit la plus grande quantité de seaux, de baquets en cèdre, emploie aussi un système de soudure électrique pour fabriquer et souder les lames de fer dont on se sert pour resserrer les douves. Ces cercles ou bandes sont généralement fabriqués de fer galvanisé et sont fixés solidement autour de ces vaisseaux dans une rainure faite sur les douves; les extrémités du cerceau sont soudées ensemble, un petit morceau de mica étant placé sous elles pour empêcher le bois de s'enflammer quand un courant électrique puissant, produit dans le cercle par un appareil

spécial, chauffe les deux bouts presque instantanément à une chaude soudante et les unit fortement ensemble. Le bois de cèdre se faisant remarquer par ses qualités durables, le fer galvanisé étant presque à l'épreuve de la rouille et la soudure électrique étant incassable; on dit que un seau ou un baquet fait de cette manière est presque indestructible.

Dans les fabriques de vélocipèdes, la soudure et la brasure électriques sont très employées. Ce procédé est aussi employé, jusqu'à un certain point, dans la fabrication des projectiles capables de percer les armures. Un des procédés les plus intéressants dans lequel la chaleur électrique est employée est celui de la recuite des cuirasses pour les vaisseaux de guerre. Les dimensions de ces plaques sont généralement très grandes, ayant plusieurs pieds de côté et plus de 18 à 20 pouces d'épaisseur. Elles sont faites d'acier dur et dans les procédés KRUPP et HARVEY, on durcit la surface à une profondeur de 1 ou 2 pouces, afin que des outils ordinaires, tels que les vrilles et les gouges d'acier des rabots ne puissent avoir aucun effet sur elles. Le nouveau procédé électrique de la trempe consiste à chauffer localement la surface de ces plaques à n'importe quel degré de température désiré et de la réduire graduellement de façon à tremper l'acier dur et le rendre malléable. Les cuirasses du *Kearsarge* et du *Kentucky*, les nouveaux vaisseaux de guerre des Etats-Unis qui vont être mis en commission, furent, après avoir été soumises à un procédé de trempe électrique, rabotées sur les bords et forées pour recevoir les boulons.

## PRODUCTION DU CAFÉ DE JAVA.

Le "Indische Mercuur" de Batavia, Java, donne les statistiques suivantes concernant le commerce du café de Java, pendant les années 1896-1899.

*Café de Java (en sacs de 60 kilogrammes).*

Année.	Plantations du gouvernement.		Plantations privées.	
	Total de la récolte.	Exportations aux Pays-Bas.	Total de la récolte.	Exportation aux Pays-Bas.
1890-91 .....	371,000	108,300	325,000	217,600
1891-92 .....	597,000	271,000	409,000	344,100
1892-93 .....	68,000	443,700	124,000	320,700
1893-94 .....	363,000	123,600	455,000	260,000
1894-95 .....	339,000	260,200	333,000	402,200
1895-96 .....	265,000	238,800	456,000	307,500
1896-97 .....	381,000	149,000	392,000	409,300
1897-98 .....	94,000	289,100	150,000	353,900
1898-99 .....	207,000	106,900	510,000	261,100

*Importations de café aux Pays-Bas.*

Année.	Totaux.	Java.	Menado.	Macassar.	Afrique.	Santos.	Amérique Centrale.
1890.....	922, 200	580, 700	13, 100	13, 500	42, 000	232, 600	3, 900
1893.....	1, 031, 100	608, 600	11, 200	9, 100	68, 500	277, 400	16, 700
1894.....	937, 500	622, 100	1, 600	10, 900	52, 500	185, 100	19, 100
1895.....	1, 178, 800	598, 300	5, 800	7, 200	55, 200	452, 900	22, 000
1896.....	1, 195, 300	582, 700	1, 700	10, 800	49, 600	502, 900	3, 200
1897.....	1, 436, 800	659, 700	11, 300	23, 600	77, 400	615, 000	2, 300
1898.....	1, 522, 700	464, 600	3, 400	15, 500	80, 600	875, 700	11, 700
1899.....	1, 702, 500	594, 500	10, 000	10, 000	59, 400	919, 100	12, 700

## COMMENT L'ALUMINIUM EST PRODUIT.

L'aluminium est maintenant désigné sous le nom de métal des électriciens. Il fut découvert, il y a 72 ans, en Allemagne, par Herr WOHLER, ou plutôt isolé des minéraux dont il est un composé. Il y a 10 ans à peine, l'aluminium était si rare qu'il était classé parmi les métaux précieux. On employa alors pour le manufacturer les procédés électriques, et il est aujourd'hui, à part seulement le fer, le plomb et le zinc, meilleur marché que n'importe quel autre métal. La méthode employée pour produire l'aluminium est aussi simple qu'intéressante, deux minéraux, la cryolithe et le bauxite, deux composés de l'aluminium entrant dans le procédé. Le premier est un spath du Groënland assez curieux et qui à une couleur verdâtre. C'est une substance dure et transparente qui fond facilement à une basse chaleur rouge. Chimiquement parlant, cette substance est "l'aluminium fluoride." Le bauxite, qui est nommé d'après la ville de Baux, France, près de laquelle de grandes couches de ce minerai ont été trouvées, est une substance argileuse, blanche ou jaunâtre, qui est composée presque entièrement d'alumine ou d'oxide d'aluminium.

Dans les procédés modernes pour produire l'aluminium, on emploie d'abord la cryolithe que l'on fait fondre dans un réservoir en fonte qui a à peu près la dimension et la forme d'une baignoire et que l'on chauffe au moyen du gaz. On mélange à cette masse fondue le bauxite qui a été préalablement nettoyé et pulvérisé. A chaque extrémité du réservoir se trouve une électrode qui consiste en une lourde plaque de carbone, entre lesquelles on fait passer un courant électrique puissant. Le courant est suffisant pour chauffer le contenu du réservoir au point de le faire fondre, et au bout de quelques minutes l'aluminium commence à se déposer sur une des plaques de carbone. La température du bain étant assez élevée pour conserver le métal en fusion, ce dernier s'amasse en gouttes et coule jusqu'au fond du réservoir, d'où il est retiré de temps en temps par une ouverture convenablement située dont on a retiré le bouchon. L'aluminium prend rapidement la place du bronze et du cuivre dans beaucoup d'industries et est principalement employé

comme conducteur de l'électricité. Pour transmettre la force motrice à de grandes distances il possède des qualités avantageuses. Quoique l'aluminium, livre pour livre, coûte plus cher que le cuivre, il est cependant beaucoup plus léger et une ligne construite avec ce métal pèse la moitié moins et coûte 10 pour cent de moins, tout en ayant le même pouvoir effectif de transmettre le courant.

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## RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

### NOTES SUR LE MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT.

M. DOMINGUEZ, ministre de la République Argentine à Londres, a reçu le télégramme suivant de son Gouvernement:

“ La session du Congrès a été ouverte le 1<sup>er</sup> mai.

“ Le Président de la République annonce dans son message que les questions de frontière seront bientôt complètement résolues conformément aux traités. Des relations cordiales sont maintenues avec toutes les puissances étrangères, y compris le Saint-Siège.

“ Les revenus augmentent et les dépenses ont été diminuées. Les recettes pour l'année 1899 ont été de \$45,676,000 or et \$61,420,000 argent, accusant une augmentation de \$11,000,000 or et de \$11,000,000 argent sur l'exercice précédent. Les recettes des douanes pour le premier trimestre de 1900 ont été de \$9,000,000 or, et il y aura une augmentation considérable provenant d'autres sources de revenus.

“ L'amélioration des recettes a permis d'amortir la dette flottante et de remplir toutes les obligations budgétaires, ainsi que de solder les dépenses extraordinaires. L'industrie agricole étant dans une condition florissante, les finances nationales sont à l'aise et le Gouvernement a, à présent, en Europe \$12,500,000 or et \$31,000,000 en titres.

“ Les importations pendant l'année passée se sont élevées à \$117,000,000 or et les exportations à \$118,000,000 or. Le pays est calme et des améliorations sont projetées dans les différentes branches de l'administration.”

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## BOLIVIE.

### NOUVEAUX DROITS D'EXPORTATION SUR LE CAOUTCHOUC.

Un décret du Président de la République bolivienne, en date du 14 février dernier, a modifié le régime d'exportation du caoutchouc.

Le droit à percevoir sera désormais ad valorem, savoir: 8 pour cent pour les gommés exportées par les douanes de Villa-Bella (voie du Madeira et de l'Amazone), de Gaiba et de Puerto-Suarez (voie du Paraguay) et du département de la Paz (voie de Mollendo).



Quinze pour cent pour celles qu'on exportera par la douane de l'Acre (voie du Puraz et de l'Amazonie).

Les anciennes taxes de 10 et 16 centavos par kilogramme, suivant qualités, représenteraient en 1896 un droit ad valorem de 7 pour cent sur la gomme fine et de 6.57 pour cent sur le "Sernamby."

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## BRÉSIL.

### RÉSUMÉ DU MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT.

Le Congrès brésilien a ouvert sa séance le 3 mai, à Rio de Janeiro.

Le message du Président CAMPOS SALLES constate que les relations internationales sont excellentes; la visite du Président de la République Argentine aura pour effet de fortifier les liens de solidarité sud-américaine.

Le Brésil a demandé à la France et à l'Italie de réduire de 30 pour cent leurs droits sur les cafés. La France a offert une réduction de 10 pour cent, l'Italie de 20 pour cent; les négociations continuent.

Des pourparlers ont lieu avec les Etats-Unis pour la conclusion d'un traité de commerce.

Le message n'attache que peu d'importance au récent complot monarchique. Les conspirateurs seront jugés conformément à la loi.

L'armée a été réduite l'an dernier, par mesure d'économie, mais on procède activement à l'instruction des troupes qui formeront le noyau de la future armée. La marine a été améliorée et le gouvernement espère disposer l'an prochain de vingt-trois navires de guerre prêts à prendre la mer.

Abordant les questions financières, le Président exprime l'espoir de pouvoir reprendre les paiements extérieurs en or dans le délai fixé, c'est-à-dire l'année prochaine, sans opérations de crédit et sans sacrifices pour les contribuables. Il promet encore des économies, bien que de nouvelles réductions de dépenses soient peu faciles.

### BUDGET VOTÉ PAR LE CONGRÈS POUR L'ÉTAT DE RIO DE JANEIRO.

La recette prévue pour l'exercice 1900, d'après le projet de budget voté par le Congrès de l'Etat, est de 11,887 contos et la dépense de 11,573 contos; n'ayant pas été sanctionné par le pouvoir exécutif, ce projet va être remanié conformément aux nécessités exposées par M. ALBERTO TORRES dans un exposé de motifs.

Dans la recette, les droits d'exportation sont estimés à 8,640 contos de reis et le café y figure pour 6,800 contos de reis; l'impôt foncier et le droit de transmission de propriété s'inscrivent respectivement pour 1,000 contos et 900 contos de reis.

**OUVERTURE DU CONGRÈS DE L'ÉTAT DE SAO PAULO.**

Le Congrès a ouvert la session législative le 7 avril dernier en présence des autorités de l'Etat et du corps consulaire. Sur la situation financière, le message du gouverneur a donné les informations suivantes: Recette totale de 1899, y compris la recette ordinaire et extraordinaire, le solde reporté de 1898 et les différences de change provenant de la vente de traites pour le compte de l'emprunt extérieur, 57,748 contos de reis. Dépense, y compris les dépenses supplémentaires et spéciales, 42,995 contos. Dette intérieure consolidée, 2,265 contos; dette extérieure, au change de 27 d., 13,272 contos; dette flottante, 263 contos. Le solde existant au Trésor est évalué à 10,921 contos de reis.

**EXPORTATIONS DE CAOUTCHOUC PAR LE PORT DE BELEM (PARA).**

Pendant le mois de mars il a été exporté par le port de Belem 4,164,500 kilos de caoutchouc, contre 3,479,236 en 1899; 2,688,606 kilos ont été exportés pour l'Europe et 1,485,952 pour les Etats-Unis.

**POSE D'UN CÂBLE SOUS-MARIN.**

La "Western Telegraph Company" vient d'achever la pose d'un câble sous-marin direct entre Pernambuco et Para, établissant ainsi une nouvelle communication avec ses stations du nord du Brésil (voie Madère).

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**CUBA.**
**TARIF SUR LES CUIRS.**

D'après le nouveau tarif relatif aux importations pour Cuba et qui a été promulgué par le Ministre de la Guerre des Etats-Unis le 14 mai et mis en vigueur à partir du 15 juin, 1900, les droits suivants seront applicables aux cuirs, peaux, ouvrages en cuir, y compris les chaussures, tous ces articles étant classés sous le titre "Groupe 2 de la classe 10":

189. Pelleteries à l'état naturel ou préparées, 10 pour cent ad valorem.

190. Peaux brutes, sèches, salées ou conservées, 10 pour cent ad valorem.

191. Peaux tannées avec poil, 15 pour cent ad valorem.

192. Peaux tannées, apprêtées et finies, sans poil, y compris le cuir vert ou cru, les semelles de cuir, les bandes ou courroies de transmission, les empeignes, les harnais et la sellerie en cuir, 15 pour cent ad valorem.

193. Peaux tannées, apprêtées et finies, y compris les peaux de veau, de kangourou, de mouton, d'agneau, de chèvre et de chevreau, 15 pour cent ad valorem.

194. Cuirs et peaux, vernis, vernissés ou émaillés et les peaux imprimées, 20 pour cent ad valorem.
195. Cuir coupé en empeignes de bottes, ou en autres formes, propre à être ouvré en articles et aussi les manufactures de cuir fini ou non, non autrement stipulé, 25 pour cent ad valorem.
196. Gants de peau \$3.50 le kilo: gants bourrés pour jouer à la balle et pour boxer, \$1. le kilo.
197. Bottes, souliers et pantoufles: (a) Hommes, numéro 5 et au dessus (modèle américain), \$0.15 par paire et 10 pour cent ad valorem; (b) femmes, enfants, jeunes gens, jeunes filles, \$0.10 par paire et 10 pour cent ad valorem.
198. Bottes et souliers, numéro 9½ (enfants) et au dessous (modèle américain), par paire, \$0.05 et 10 pour cent ad valorem.
199. Bottes à l'écuyère, la paire, \$2.
200. Sandales faites sans cuir, \$0.40 par douzaine.
201. Articles de sellerie et harnais: (a) Harnais autres que pour les voitures, \$0.05 le kilo; (b) harnais pour les voitures, \$0.10 le kilo; (c) autres articles de bourrellerie et de sellerie; valises; étuis à chapeaux et sacs de nuit en carton ou en cuir, \$0.20 le kilo.
202. Autres articles manufacturés de cuir ou couverts de cuir, 25 pour cent ad valorem. Quand les bandes ou courroies de transmission ne seront pas importées comme faisant partie des machines, elles seront soumises aux droits de ce paragraphe.

#### RECETTES DU MOIS D'AVRIL 1900.

D'après le rapport publié par le Ministère de la Guerre des Etats-Unis, le total des recettes de l'Ile de Cuba, pendant le mois d'avril 1900, s'est monté à \$1,370,387. Ces recettes provenaient des sources suivantes: Droits de douane, \$1,257,284; impôts de l'intérieur, \$79,606; service postal, \$18,459; recettes diverses, \$15,038.

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## ÉQUATEUR.

### NOUVEAU CONTRAT.

Le Gouvernement a passé un contrat avec M. le colonel WEATHERLY pour la colonisation de la région orientale de la République.

#### DÉCRET DISPOSANT DES ENTRÉES DES DOUANES.

Un décret du pouvoir exécutif dispose que les entrées des douanes de la République seront consacrées aux frais de guerre, à l'exception de celles déjà affectées à l'instruction publique et au chemin de fer du sud.

**DÉCOUVERTE DE NOUVEAUX GISEMENTS DE SOUFRE.**

Les travaux d'études faits en vue de la ligne ferrée qui doit relier Guayaquil à Quito ont amené la découverte dans le cratère du Huahua Pichincha d'importants gisements de soufre, sublimé et en fleur. La concession de l'exploitation de ces mines a été demandée en faveur de la compagnie américaine du chemin de fer.

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**ÉTATS-UNIS.****RAPPORT OFFICIEL SUR LA RÉCOLTE.**

Le Rapport mensuel du statisticien du ministère de l'agriculture dit, qu'à la suite d'une investigation spéciale relative au blé d'hiver qui a été enlevé avec la charrue ou coupé pour le fourrage, le gouvernement estime que l'aire cultivée restante a été encore réduite de 1,676,000 acres, l'aire additionnelle abandonnée comprenant le nombre d'acres suivants: 581,000 dans l'Ohio, 79,000 dans le Michigan, 220,000 dans l'Indiana, 348,000 dans l'Illinois et 448,000 dans la Californie. Ceci laisse l'aire cultivée de blé d'hiver, le 1<sup>er</sup> juin, à 24,908,000 acres, soit 5,240,000 acres de moins que l'aire ensemencée pendant l'automne. Malgré cette diminution d'acres, la condition du blé d'hiver a diminué pendant le mois de mai de 6.2 points, la condition le 1<sup>er</sup> juin étant 82.7 contre 67.3 le 1<sup>er</sup> juin 1899, 90.8 le 1<sup>er</sup> juin 1898, et 80.7 la moyenne de 10 années.

Les rapports préliminaires de l'aire ensemencée de blé de printemps indiquent une réduction de 567,000 acres environ ou 2.9 pour cent. Les Etats de Minnesota, de Wisconsin et de l'Orégon rapportent une diminution de 4 pour cent; ceux de Nord-Dakota, de Nébraska, de 5 pour cent et l'Etat de Iowa de 6 pour cent. Dans les Etats de Sud-Dakota et de Washington, on constate une augmentation de 1 pour cent. La condition moyenne du blé de printemps, le 1<sup>er</sup> juin, était 87.3 contre 91.4 le 1<sup>er</sup> juin 1899, avec une moyenne de 10 années de 93.

Les rapports disent que l'aire ensemencée d'avoine dépasse celle moissonnée en 1899 de 3.9 pour cent. On a constaté une augmentation de 16 pour cent dans l'Ohio, de 28 pour cent dans l'Indiana, de 9 pour cent dans l'Etat de New York, de 3 pour cent en Pennsylvanie et dans l'Etat de Wisconsin et de 1 pour cent dans les Etats de Minnesota, Kansas et Nebraska. Excepté dans l'Etat de Iowa où le rétrécissement est insignifiant, il n'existe dans aucun Etat, ayant un million ou plus d'acres d'avoine, aucune contenance qui ait été réduite.

La condition moyenne de l'avoine est 91.7 contre 88.7 le 1<sup>er</sup> juin 1899, avec une moyenne de 10 années de 39.8. Parmi les Etats possédant un million ou plus d'acres d'avoine, ceux de l'Illinois, de l'Iowa,

de Kansas et de Nebraska, rapportent la condition à 6,6,19 et 16 points au dessus de leurs moyennes de 10 ans, pendant que les Etats de New-York, de Pennsylvanie, de l'Ohio, de l'Indiana, de Wisconsin et de Minnesota rapportent 1,8,14,2,6 et 10 points, respectivement, au dessous de la moyenne des moyennes des mois de juin pendant 10 années.

La superficieensemencée d'orge est 6 dixième de 1 pour cent plus grande que l'aire moissonnée en 1899. La condition moyenne de l'orge est 86.2 contre 91.4 le 1<sup>er</sup> juin 1899, avec une moyenne de 10 ans de 88.5.

La contenance ensemencée de seigle a diminué de 4.1 pour cent comparée à celle moissonnée en 1899.

Des deux principaux Etats qui produisent le seigle, New York et la Pennsylvanie, le premier montre un rétrécissement de 7 pour cent et le dernier une augmentation de 10 pour cent, l'augmentation de l'aire dans la Pennsylvanie ayant été causée par l'ensemencement de quelques milliers d'acres de seigle de printemps dans un terrain qui avait été semé de blé d'hiver pendant l'automne de 1899, lequel a été depuis enlevé avec la charrue à cause du froid rigoureux de l'hiver.

La condition moyenne du seigle est 87.6 contre 84.5 le 1<sup>er</sup> juin 1899, avec une moyenne de 10 ans de 89.9.

La superficie et la condition de la luzerne du pays ne peuvent pas être déterminées d'une manière satisfaisante. Quant à la condition, presque tous les principaux Etats qui produisent la luzerne sont considérablement au dessous de leurs moyennes de 10 ans.

Les rapports concernant les pêches et les pommes sont extrêmement favorables.

#### **RECETTES MENSUELLES GOUVERNEMENTALES PENDANT LE MOIS DE MAI 1900.**

Les recettes du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis pendant le mois de mai 1900 se sont montées à \$45,166,053, soit une augmentation de \$380,040 sur le même mois de l'année 1899. Les dépenses du Gouvernement pour le même mois se sont élevées à \$40,351,521, laissant un surplus de \$4,814,528.

Pendant les 11 mois finissant le 30 mai, les recettes du Gouvernement ont dépassé de \$48,463,286 celles de la même période de l'année antérieure; les recettes douanières étant comprises dans l'augmentation pour \$26,427,894 et les impôts de l'intérieur pour \$20,019,020.

Le rapport mensuel de la dette publique montre qu'à la fermeture des bureaux, le 31 mai 1900, la dette des Etats-Unis se montait à \$1,122,608,811, soit une diminution pour le mois de \$2,193,374.

Le rapport mensuel du Contrôleur de la Monnaie montre qu'à la fermeture des bureaux, le 31 mai 1900, le total des billets de la banque nationale, en circulation, se montait à \$300,488,889, soit une augmentation pour l'année de \$58,424,355, et pour le mois de \$15,210,563.

**COMMERCE PENDANT LE MOIS D'AVRIL 1900.**

Les rapports commerciaux des Etats-Unis montrent que pendant le mois d'avril 1900, les exportations des marchandises ont encore dépassé considérablement les importations; l'excédent se montant pendant ce mois à \$43,472,588, contre \$23,586,645 en avril 1899. Le total général des exportations a dépassé d'environ \$3,000,000 celui du même mois pendant l'année passée et s'est monté à \$118,939,252, pendant que les importations ont augmenté un petit peu plus de \$10,000,000 et se sont élevées à \$75,466,664.

Les chiffres pour les 10 mois de l'année fiscale finissant le 30 avril 1900 sont remarquables et montrent que le commerce des Etats-Unis s'est développé d'une façon prodigieuse. Les exportations des marchandises pendant ces mois ont atteint un total général de \$1,172,749,430, soit une augmentation de \$135,961,602 sur les mêmes 10 mois de l'année antérieure et étaient seulement \$55,000,000 de moins que pour toute l'année fiscale de 1899.

Les importations pendant les 10 mois qui viennent de s'écouler se sont élevées à \$717,241,466, soit une augmentation de \$152,010,659 sur les mois correspondants de 1899. Le total indiqué des importations pour l'année fiscale finissant le 30 juin 1900, est d'environ \$860,000,000, qui sera \$153,000 environ de plus que les importations de l'année fiscale 1899 et plus grand que celui des importations pour n'importe quelle année dans les annales du pays, à l'exception de l'année 1893. La proportion entre les importations et les exportations sera très différente en 1900 de ce qu'elle était en 1893.

L'excédent des importations d'or pour les 10 mois finissant le 30 avril 1900 a été de \$9,250,321 contre un excédent d'importations pour les mêmes mois, l'année dernière, de \$68,214,148. L'excédent des exportations d'argent a diminué de \$4,600,000 environ, se montant pour les présents 10 mois à \$17,597,767. La balance commerciale nette, indiquée dans ces rapports pendant les 10 mois finissant le 30 avril 1900, est de \$455,507,968, contre \$471,557,021 l'année dernière.

D'après les rapports du mois d'avril concernant les importations et les exportations du pays, les premières se sont montées à \$75,466,664 dont une valeur de \$33,445,027 était exempte de droits, le pourcentage étant 44.32. L'augmentation totale sur le mois d'avril 1899 était \$10,257,436.

Le total général des exportations comparé à celui de l'année antérieure, était divisé comme suit: Produits agricoles \$68,892,977, contre \$47,573,171; produits des manufactures, \$39,424,269 contre \$33,015,970; produits des mines \$3,124,668, contre \$2,350,799; produits des forêts, \$4,413,605, contre \$3,265,663; produits des pêches, \$293,280, contre \$368,376; produits divers, \$336,326, contre \$343,607.

**MANIÈRE D'EMBALLER LE CAFÉ POUR LA VENTE.**

La forme convenable d'emballage adoptée par les épiciers en gros pour la vente des produits alimentaires vient d'être appliquée avec le plus grand succès au café. Cet article occupe le second rang dans la liste de ceux que l'on débite dans des paquets, tandis que les céréales tiennent la première place. On a calculé que un quart environ du café consommé aux Etats-Unis est vendu en paquets de cette forme, la production ayant augmentée de quelques milliers de paquets en 1868, (quand ce système fut employé la première fois) à plus de 170,000 livres en 1899. C'est cependant pendant les 10 dernières années que cette augmentation s'est fait remarquer.

Dans la préparation des paquets de café pour le marché, le procédé le plus essentiel est celui que l'on emploie pour enduire d'une espèce de vernis la surface du grain afin de clarifier ce produit et de lui conserver son arôme après qu'il a été torréfié. On emploie, pour faire cette opération, une préparation composée des ingrédients suivants dans les proportions ci-après indiquées: Mousse d'Irlande, une demi-once; gélatine, une demi-once; itchtyocolle ou colle de poisson, une demi-once; sucre blanc, une once; œufs, 24 onces. On fait bouillir les trois premiers ingrédients dans l'eau, on filtre ensuite le tout et on y ajoute les autres ingrédients. Cette méthode de vernissage conserve non seulement l'arôme au café, mais encore augmente de 5 à 10 pour cent le poids du grain torréfié, réduisant ainsi la perte de poids occasionnée par la torréfaction et qui varie de 10 à 15 livres pour cent à une moyenne de 6 livres pour cent, ce qui constitue une perte considérable. Pour être encore plus sûr de conserver au café son arôme, les paquets sont enveloppés de papier de plomb et dans quelques cas de feuilles d'étain, rendant ainsi les boîtes de carton imperméables à l'air. Les cafés non vernis sont mis dans des boîtes en fer blanc hermétiquement fermées. Tout le café qui est mis dans des paquets est torréfié et dans quelques cas il est aussi moulu et prêt à être consommé.

Le poids des paquets varie de 1 à 5 livres; quant au prix, il se vend de 8½ cents à 35 cents la livre, suivant la qualité. En 1889, la production annuelle s'est montée à 60,000,000 livres, laquelle comparée avec les chiffres de 1899, indique un gain de 110,000,000 livres dans les 10 dernières années. Dans les districts manufacturiers et miniers de l'Ouest la vente du café dans cette forme est énorme, et comme la préférence pour la meilleure qualité devient de plus en plus marquée, on a trouvé qu'il était plus profitable de vendre les meilleures qualités que les inférieures. La plus grande partie de cet emballage se fait au moyen de machines automatiques les plus perfectionnées, la main-d'œuvre n'étant employée seulement que pour recueillir le produit.

D'après une estimation conservatrice, on emploie annuellement

200,000 caisses d'œufs pour la préparation des différents vernis pour le café, les blancs d'œufs étant seulement usés. Dans quelques procédés, la gomme arabique et l'amidon sont ajoutés à l'albumine de l'œuf, mais la proportion de ce dernier ingrédient, qui est meilleur marché et plus sain, est beaucoup plus grande.

### **DROITS DE TONNAGE ET LOIS MARITIMES POUR HAWAÏ.**

Le 3 mai 1900, le Bureau de la Navigation des Etats-Unis a fait paraître une circulaire, prescrivant qu'à partir et après le 14 juin 1900, les vaisseaux venant des Iles Sandwich qui entreront dans les ports des Etats-Unis et vice versa, seront exempts des droits de tonnage. Après le 14 juin 1900, les vaisseaux arrivant dans les ports des Iles Sandwich de quelque autre port que les Etats-Unis, seront soumis aux droits de tonnage prescrits par les lois des Etats-Unis.

Une autre circulaire, parue à la même date, défend de faire des avances de paye aux marins qui voyagent dans les ports Pacifique des Etats-Unis et des ports d'Hawaï. Les avances qui n'excéderont pas un mois de paye seront permises aux marins voyageant de Hawaï aux ports Atlantique des Etats-Unis, ou vice-versa.

Une troisième circulaire de la même date est relative aux vaisseaux, à leurs armateurs, à la navigation, aux règlements de la quarantaine, etc. Ceci est, en effet, l'extension des lois maritimes des Etats-Unis aux Iles Sandwich.

Conformément à l'acte du 30 avril 1900, par lequel le Congrès des Etats-Unis créa le territoire de Hawaï, toutes les îles comprennent un seul district dans lequel seront perçus les droits de douane avec des ports d'entrée et de livraison à Honolulu, Hilo, Mahukona et Kahului.

### **DÉVELOPPEMENT DE L'INDUSTRIE SIDÉRURGIQUE AUX ETATS-UNIS.**

Une revue scientifique française s'exprime ainsi au sujet du développement de l'industrie sidérurgique aux Etats-Unis:

Nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de signaler l'augmentation prodigieuse de la production américaine, véritable menace pour la prospérité future de l'industrie métallurgique du vieux continent.

La production de la fonte, qui était, en 1898, de 11,962,000 tonnes, a atteint, en 1899, 14,200,000 tonnes. Il est intéressant de rapprocher de ce chiffre les suivants:

	Tonnes.
France (1898) .....	2,534,000
Allemagne (1899).....	8,051,245
Belgique (1899) .....	1,036,185
Grande-Bretagne (1899) .....	9,400,000



D'autre part, à côté du tonnage de 1,441,523 tonnes d'acier produit en 1898 en France, les Etats-Unis sont arrivés, en 1899, au chiffre de 10,160,000 tonnes, dont 2,540,000 tonnes de rails.

Or, une telle production dépasse de beaucoup les besoins de la consommation américaine; aussi les exportations de fontes, fers et aciers qui n'étaient en 1895 que de 90,819 tonnes, se sont élevées, en 1898, à 894,696 tonnes.

C'est en 1897 que les produits américains ont commencé à pénétrer en Europe, d'abord sous forme de fontes puis bientôt après comme demi-produits (blooms, billettes, etc.); en 1899, les exportations furent grandement favorisées par la hausse considérable des prix de vente sur le marché intérieur qui, par compensation, permit d'écouler à l'extérieur, à des prix très bas, l'excédent de la production. Rappelons enfin qu'en Amérique, grâce à la spécialisation du travail et à la puissance de l'outillage, les prix de revient ont constamment baissé et que, toujours dans ce but, depuis la fin de l'année 1898, un certain nombre de sociétés, désignées sous le nom de *consolidations*, se sont constituées par la fusion d'établissements ou de compagnies très diverses puisqu'elles exploitaient respectivement des mines de fer, des mines de charbon, des fours à coke, des usines métallurgiques, des lignes de chemins de fer et même des lignes de navigation. Ces véritables syndicats transportent donc maintenant les matières premières aux lieux de production, et les produits aux lieux de consommation dans les meilleures conditions possibles.

Nous donnons ci-dessous les plus importantes de ces consolidations, avec leur capacité respective de production en tonnes de 1,016 kilogrammes d'acier:

	Tonnes.
Federal Steel Company.....	2,500,000
The American Steel and Wire Company, of New Jersey.....	1,500,000
National Steel Company.....	1,800,000
Republic Iron and Steel Company.....	1,000,000
American Steel Hoop Company.....	700,000
Empire Steel and Iron Company.....	300,000
American Iron and Steel Manufacturing Company.....	150,000
	7,950,000

#### DROITS ADDITIONNELS SUR CERTAINS SUCRES.

Conformément aux circulaires No. 86 de 1899 et Nos. 9 et 10 de 1900, du Ministère des Finances des Etats-Unis, des droits additionnels devront être levés sur les sucres importés des pays ou produits dans les pays accordant une prime à l'exportation de ce produit comme suit:

##### ALLEMAGNE.

	Marks.
Sucre brut ayant au moins 90 pour cent de degré de polarisation.....	100 kil.. 2.40

## BELGIQUE.

		Francs.
1 <sup>o</sup> Sucre de betteraves .....	100 kil..	2. 25
2 <sup>o</sup> Sucre de betteraves raffiné.....	id..	2. 54

## AUTRICHE-HONGRIE.

		Florins.
1 <sup>o</sup> Sucre ayant moins de 93 pour cent et au moins 88 pour cent degré de polarisation .....	100 kil..	1. 15
2 <sup>o</sup> Sucre ayant moins de 99½ pour cent et au moins 93 pour cent de degré de polarisation.....	100 kil..	1. 23
3 <sup>o</sup> Sucre ayant au moins 99½.pour cent de degré de polarisation.....	id..	1. 76

Jusqu'à la prochaine constatation et notification de primes, ainsi que cela est stipulé à l'article 5 ci-dessus, on pourra surseoir au dédouanement définitif des expéditions de sucre d'origine austro-hongroise produit à partir du 1<sup>er</sup> août 1899.

Les droits seront donc calculés d'après les primes indiquées ci-dessus, sous réserve de procéder aux liquidations définitives suivant les primes qui seront ultérieurement notifiées.

Dispositions complémentaires au tableau ci-contre.

## ALLEMAGNE.

Aux termes de l'article 5 de l'acte du 24 juillet 1897, notification est faite des primes actuellement accordées par l'Allemagne à l'exportation des sucres raffinés. Pour la perception aux Etats-Unis des droits additionnels applicables aux sucres importés ou de production de ce pays, le montant de ces primes est désigné ci-après:

		Marks.
1 <sup>o</sup> Sucre candi en pains, blocs, cristaux, etc., durs et blancs, ayant au moins 99½ pour cent de degré de polarisation.....	100 kil..	3, 446
2 <sup>o</sup> Tous autres sucres ayant au moins 98 pour cent de degré de polarisation ..	id..	2, 896

(Circulaire du Département du Trésor, No. 34, du 24 mars 1900.)

## BELGIQUE.

Sont complétées comme ci-après les dispositions de la circulaire du Département du Trésor, No. 9, du 31 janvier 1900, désignant le montant des primes accordées par la Belgique à l'exportation des sucres de production de ce pays, à partir du 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 1899:

Jusqu'à la prochaine constatation et notification de primes, ainsi que cela est stipulé à l'article 5 de l'acte du 24 juillet 1897, on devra surseoir au dédouanement définitif des expéditions de sucres d'origine belge et produits à partir du 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 1900.

Les droits additionnels sur les sucres dont il s'agit seront donc calculés comme suit:

		Francs.
Sucre brut.....	100 kil..	3. 90
Sucre raffiné .....	id..	4. 40

(Circulaire du Département du Trésor, No. 37, du 30 mars 1900.)

## PAYS-BAS.

Florins.

1. Sucre de betteraves, brut.....100 kil. de sucre dur raffiné... 1.78  
(Le rendement du sucre raffiné provenant du sucre brut sera déterminé en déduisant du degré de polarisation du sucre brut le coefficient 2 pour le glucose, 4 pour les cendres et 1½ pour cent à titre de déchet de fabrication au raffinage.)
2. Sucre raffiné provenant de sucre de betteraves, brut, de production hollandaise.....100 kil.. 2.06
3. Sucre raffiné provenant de sucre brut importé.....id.. .28  
(En plus de la prime accordée, le cas échéant, pour le sucre brut dans le pays de production.)

Jusqu'à la prochaine constatation et notification de primes, ainsi que cela est stipulé à l'article 5 de l'acte du 24 juillet 1897, on pourra, à la demande des importateurs, surseoir au dédouanement définitif des expéditions de sucres d'origine hollandaise, produits à partir du 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 1899.

Les droits seront donc calculés d'après les primes ci-dessus.

(Circulaire du Département du Trésor, no. 40, du 4 avril 1900.)

**SUPPRESSION DU CONSULAT À HONOLULU.**

Le consulat des Etats-Unis à Honolulu sera supprimé le 14 juin 1900, après une existence continue de 60 ans. Les archives de ce consulat, dont beaucoup ont une très grande valeur historique, seront transférés au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington.

**RÉCOLTE PROBABLE DU BLÉ DANS L'ÉTAT DE KANSAS.**

Les cultivateurs de l'Etat de Kansas sont en train de récolter la moisson la plus abondante dans les annales de l'Etat, ce qui est en contraste direct avec la situation des affaires dans un grand nombre d'Etats où le blé est cultivé depuis longtemps et où les indications sont que la récolte de l'année 1900 sera bien moins abondante.

M. COBURN, secrétaire du conseil d'agriculture de l'Etat de Kansas, est cité comme ayant dit que la récolte du blé en 1900 surpassera celle des années précédentes. "En 1892, le Kansas avait 3,800,000 acres ensemencés de blé et récolta 70,000,000 boisseaux, soit une moyenne de 18 boisseaux par acre. Cette année, la contenance du blé d'hiver est, d'après l'estimation des cultivateurs, de 4,685,819 acres, et on croit que le rendement moyen par acre sera supérieur à celui de 1892. Si le rendement par acre est le même que celui de l'année 1892, on récoltera 85,000,000 boisseaux. La récolte, en général, n'a jamais été dans de meilleures conditions."

**EXPORTATION DE COTON EN AVRIL 1900.**

Pendant le mois d'avril 1900, les Etats-Unis ont exporté 264,044,318 livres de coton évaluées à \$24,684,078, contre 134,397,328 livres en

avril 1899, estimées à \$8,435,097. Le prix moyen de la livre pendant le mois d'avril 1900 était 9.3 cents, soit une augmentation de près de 50 pour cent sur celui de la livre en avril 1899, quand il se montait seulement à 6.3 cents.

Le Royaume-Uni de la Grande-Bretagne a augmenté ses importations de coton des Etats-Unis de 52,000,000 livres en avril 1899 à 89,000,000 livres en avril 1900; la France de 9,000,000 à 13,000,000; l'Allemagne, de 15,500,000 à 88,000,000 livres, et les autres pays européens de 40,000,000 à 64,000,000 livres.

### **PRODUITS MINÉRAUX DE LA CALIFORNIE.**

D'après le rapport du minéralogiste de la Californie, les substances minérales produites dans cet Etat, pendant l'année 1899, se sont montées à une valeur de \$29,313,460, soit une augmentation de \$2,024,381 sur le rendement de l'année précédente. Les principaux items énumérés dans le rapport de ce fonctionnaire étaient les suivants: Or, \$15,336,031; cuivre, 22,915,486 livres—\$3,990,534; pétrole, 2,667,875 barils—\$2,660,703; mercure, 29,454 bouteilles—\$1,405,045; borax, 20,357 tonnes—\$1,139,882.

### **L'INDUSTRIE DE LA SOIE EN CALIFORNIE.**

La chambre de commerce de la ville de San-Diego, Etat de la Californie, a récemment fait des investigations sur l'industrie de la soie dans cette partie des Etats-Unis. Cet examen a démontré que, tandis qu'en France la saison pour la production de la soie écrue ne dure que 42 jours, on peut élever à San-Diego, chaque année, quatre générations de cocon, la saison durant 240 jours. Comme résultat de cet examen la chambre de commerce est en train de déployer toute son énergie pour établir de nouvelles magnaneries et a fait des arrangements pour se procurer un grand nombre de vers à soie et 5,000 mûriers qui seront distribués dans les districts agricoles qui environnent la ville.

### **RECETTES PERÇUES À PORTO-RICO PENDANT LE MOIS D'AVRIL 1900.**

Le Bureau du Ministère de la Guerre des Etats-Unis, chargé de la douane et des affaires insulaires, vient de publier un rapport qui montre que les recettes perçues par le trésorier de Porto-Rico, pendant le mois d'avril 1900, se sont montées à \$105,869.18.

Voici les différentes sources de ces revenus:

Droits de douane, \$70,279.72; service postal, \$6,287.02; impôts de l'intérieur, \$27,588.84; sources diverses, \$1,713.40. Le total des dépenses pendant le mois s'est monté à \$186,150.77, montrant un déficit pour le mois de \$80.641.59.

Le 30 avril 1900, le gouvernement civil ayant été substitué au gouvernement militaire, la balance qui restait entre les mains de ce dernier et qui se montait à \$285,339.25, fut versée dans la caisse du trésorier du gouvernement civil, conformément aux instructions du Ministère de la Guerre.

#### **LE MONNAYAGE DANS LES HÔTELS DE LA MONNAIE PENDANT LE MOIS DE MAI 1900.**

Le rapport mensuel du Directeur de la Monnaie des Etats-Unis montre que la quantité de monnaie frappée pendant le mois de mai 1900, s'est élevée à \$11,569,063, ce total étant divisé comme suit: Or, \$8,252,000; argent, \$3,171,000; petite monnaie de nickel et de bronze, \$146,063.

#### **NOUVELLE LIGNE DE VAPEURS.**

La "Hamburg American Steamship Company" vient d'annoncer qu'elle inaugurera à partir du 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 1900, une nouvelle ligne de bateaux à vapeur entre New-York et Haïti; les Etats-Unis de Colombie, Port Limon et la Jamaïque dépêchant un courrier tous les 10 jours.

#### **COMMERCE DU COGNAC AUX ILES PHILIPPINES.**

D'après une communication du consul de France à Manille, l'importation du cognac aux Philippines a diminué, et il en sera ainsi tant que les éléments de la population blanche ne se modifieront pas. Les prix du cognac, avec la valeur actuelle de la piastre (2.50 francs), les frais de douane, de débarquement, de magasinage, de transport, etc., l'augmentation énorme des loyers, des salaires et la cherté croissante de l'existence dans cette ville, sont peu accessibles pour la presque totalité des habitants.

Les indigènes achètent des alcools fabriqués dans le pays; et les 60,000 soldats américains qui sont disséminés sur tous les points de ces îles, préfèrent, de même que leurs officiers, le whisky, dont il est consommé des quantités considérables dans les hôtels, restaurants, bars, brasseries de la ville et dans les buvettes installées en province, partout où les troupes des Etats-Unis sont campées. Il reste, en conséquence une partie relativement infime de la population, à laquelle on puisse offrir le cognac français et ce nombre limité de consommateurs ne répond pas à celui des négociants français qui désirent rencontrer dans ce pays, un débouché pour leurs produits.

## MEXIQUE.

## PRINCIPAUX DISTRICTS PRODUISANT LE TABAC.

Dans son étude intéressante sur la "Terre Chaude Mexicaine" paraissant depuis quelque temps dans le "Nouveau-Monde," M. le Baron MONCHER, ministre de Belgique au Mexique, s'exprime ainsi au sujet des principaux districts produisant le tabac :

Il y a au Mexique trois districts principaux produisant le tabac pour l'exportation : celui de San Andres-Tuxtla, celui d'Acayucan dans l'Etat de Vera Cruz et celui de Tuxtepec dans l'Etat d'Oaxaca.

Le tabac de San Andres-Tuxtla est aromatique et un peu corsé. Cette région donnait de brillantes récoltes primitivement, mais les terrains commencent à s'épuiser, tandis que les déboisements modifient la nature du climat qui devient trop sec. Le vent du nord y nuit souvent aux plantations.

C'est dans ce district que les entreprises de capitalistes étrangers ont été les plus nombreuses en ce qui concerne la culture et les achats de tabac. Des maisons belges y envoient chaque année des agents qui achètent de grandes quantités de tabac en feuilles qui s'exportent à Anvers.

Jusqu'à présent, on a fait peu de progrès dans les procédés de fermentation des tabacs et dans leur classification. Il faut en attribuer le motif à ce que les planteurs, certains de vendre leur récolte à un prix avantageux, aux acheteurs étrangers, qui se faisaient entre eux une forte concurrence, n'étaient pas obligés d'améliorer leur production. Mais ils vont rencontrer maintenant plus de difficultés à écouler la totalité de leur récolte.

La production de San Andres-Tuxtla s'élève en moyenne à 80,000 arrobes par an (920,000 kilogrammes). Le prix de revient est en moyenne de 5 piastres l'arrobe et celui de vente de 9 piastres.

Les tabacs d'Acayucan sont moins recherchés. De grandes plantations y ont été créées, il y a deux ans, mais jusqu'à présent elles n'ont pas encore prospéré. Près d'Acayucan, se trouve la région de Jaltipan où l'on cultivait anciennement des tabacs très appréciés ; cette culture est maintenant presque abandonnée.

Quant aux tabacs que l'on cultive plus au sud, dans les vallées du San Juan et de la rivière Trinidad, ils sont d'une qualité trop inférieure pour l'exportation.

Le district de Tuxtepec comprend les plantations bien connues du Valle Nacional. On y distingue les régions de culture suivantes : Valle Nacional, Osumacin, Ojitlan, San Domingo, Plantanar, Santa Rosa, Usila, et Rio Tonto.

Tuxtepec doit sa fortune à la culture du tabac qui y a été introduite sur une grande échelle depuis moins de vingt ans.

Les plantations du Valle Nacional appartiennent en partie à la maison BALSA, qui possède à Vera-Cruz une fabrique de cigares de très grande importance. En 1881, le fondateur de cette maison avait remarqué la qualité supérieure des feuilles de tabac apportées au marché par un indien. C'est en recherchant leur provenance qu'il découvrit les terrains du Valle Nacional. Cette vallée est en amont de Tuxtepec. Elle était encore couverte de bois il y a vingt ans. A présent tout le fond est parfaitement planté en tabac, tandis que les deux versants de la montagne sont encore garnis de forêts. Tout le pays offre maintenant un aspect riant et très prospère.

Dans la région d'Ojitlan, le tabac se cultive sur un plateau entre la rivière le Quiotepec et la montagne.

C'est dans cette région et au Valle Nacional que se récolte le meilleur tabac pour l'exportation aux Etats-Unis et en Europe.

On y fait des progrès étonnants, grâce à la sélection des semences et à la bonne construction des séchoirs.

Le prix du terrain dans les parties les plus favorables à la culture du tabac, par exemple au Valle Nacional, est très élevé; l'hectare y vaut jusqu'à 600 piastres et même davantage. La maison BALSA ne cultivant pas elle-même toutes les terres qu'elle possède dans cette région, en donne en location à des planteurs à raison de 20 piastres (50 francs).

La Valle Nacional étant toute entière mise en culture, il faut remonter les rivières pour trouver dans les vallées des terrains pour les nouvelles plantations. La valeur des terres non encore mises en culture varie d'après leur situation et d'après leur nature plus ou moins favorable au tabac.

Dans une vallée en amont de Tuxtepec, distante de 25 kilomètres, il y a de nouvelles plantations établies sur des terrains achetés à raison de 10 piastres l'hectare avant d'être défrichés.

#### DON AU MUSÉE NATIONAL.

Le "Nouveau-Monde" dit que le duc de Loubat, le savant et généreux américain, qui depuis quelques mois parcourt le territoire mexicain en faisant un voyage d'agrément et scientifique, se trouve depuis plusieurs jours à Mexico où il continue à faire des recherches archéologiques pour le musée de New York.

Voulant démontrer combien il était sensible à l'accueil qu'il avait constamment reçu durant son voyage et particulièrement à Mexico, il vient de faire don au musée national, d'un ouvrage très important pour le Mexique et son histoire.

C'est un recueil de manuscrits mexicains du Vatican, No. 3738, repro-

duits par la photochromographie d'une manière admirable. Ce recueil, imprimé sur papier ancien, avec gravures et couvertures en parchemin, forme un livre de grand format de plus de 100 pages imprimées. Il a été édité à Rome et porte la date de cette année.

#### **EXPORTATION DE HENNEQUEN.**

Il a été embarqué, en mars dernier, à Progreso, 36,957 balles de hennequen, pesant ensemble 5,994,450 kilos et représentant une valeur de \$2,116,360.

Cet hennequen a été vendu aux Etats-Unis. On ne signale aucun envoi direct de cet article en Europe pendant le mois précité. Il faut faire remarquer cependant, que beaucoup de maisons anglaises et françaises achètent du hennequen, mais en général, c'est par l'entremise des importateurs américains.

#### **ACHATS DE MINES DE CUIVRE.**

La dernière acquisition de la maison de Rothschild, au Mexique, en fait de mines, est le magnifique groupe de mines de cuivre qui existent dans l'Etat de Coahuila, groupe pour lequel elle a payé la somme de \$600,000.

La même maison a engagé déjà dans les mines de cuivre du Mexique une somme de \$14,000,000. Elle possède les mines de Boleo, en Basse Californie et celles, non moins fameuses, d'Ingvaran, dans l'Etat de Michoacan.

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### **BIBLIOGRAPHIE.**

Les livres et les brochures qui seront envoyés au Bureau des Républiques Américaines, et qui contiendront des sujets ou matières traitant des pays de l'Union internationale des Républiques Américaines, seront mentionnés dans le Bulletin Mensuel sous le titre "Bibliographie."

L'Annuaire du Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis est prêt à être livré au public. Quoique les matières contenues dans cet ouvrage ressemblent en général à celles qui y ont déjà été publiées depuis plusieurs années, les sujets compris dans la seconde partie sont nouveaux et d'un caractère différent. Pour se conformer à la loi, la première partie a été consacrée au rapport annuel du ministre. La deuxième partie consiste en 26 articles spéciaux, donnant une revue compréhensive des progrès et du développement d'un siècle dans presque chaque branche des questions scientifiques ayant un rapport direct ou pratique avec l'agriculture. Ces articles sont entièrement historiques et peignent les progrès de la science appliquée à l'agriculture aux



Etats-Unis pendant le xix<sup>e</sup> siècle. Un grand nombre de ces articles ont été mentionnés dans les BULLETINS MENSUELS de l'année dernière.

La 3<sup>e</sup> partie ou appendice a été augmentée et contient de nombreux renseignements d'une très grande valeur pour toutes les personnes intéressées dans l'agriculture scientifique et pratique. C'est un ouvrage très utile où l'on peut trouver de bons renseignements, et qui contient non seulement les noms et adresses des fonctionnaires et employés du Ministère de l'Agriculture, les noms des collèges et fermes-écoles, la liste des fonctionnaires chargés des services agricoles dans les différents états, celle des membres des différentes associations agricoles, mais aussi de nombreux renseignements sur les sujets agricoles pouvant intéresser tous les résidents des districts ruraux. L'annuaire est un volume de 880 pages, illustré d'un frontispice, de 63 gravures et orné de 33 figures. Cet ouvrage a été tiré à 500,000 exemplaires, dont 470,000 sont, de par la loi, réservés à l'usage exclusif des Sénateurs, Députés, et Représentants au Congrès des Etats-Unis et 3,000 distribués au Ministère de l'Agriculture.

Sur la proposition du Ministre de l'Agriculture, le Congrès a voté les fonds nécessaires pour une édition spéciale qui sera luxueusement reliée et distribuée à l'étranger pendant l'Exposition Universelle de Paris.

Les progrès étonnants que l'industrie du cuivre a fait aux Etats-Unis, sont montrés dans une publication allemande intitulée: "Un siècle de cuivre." Cette brochure montre que dans la décade 1891-1900, les Etats-Unis ont produit plus de la moitié du cuivre du monde, tandis que pendant les 10 années précédentes ils n'en ont produit qu'un tiers et en 1871-80 qu'un sixième environ. Dans la première décade du 19<sup>e</sup> siècle, la production du cuivre se montait seulement à 91,000 tonnes; dans la cinquième décade, elle atteignait 3,643,000 tonnes. Pour prouver que les demandes de cuivre augmentent constamment, cette publication dit que, quoique la production soit six fois autant plus grande, le prix n'a seulement diminué que d'un petit peu plus d'une moitié, ou de \$550 à \$260 par tonne. En 1890, les exportations de cuivre des Etats-Unis se montaient seulement à 20,237,409 livres, tandis qu'en 1899 elles s'élevaient à 254,987,164 livres.

Dans un rapport que M. JOHN F. WINTOR, Consul des Etats-Unis à Annaberg, Allemagne, vient d'adresser au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington, au sujet du "Commerce du monde," et de la part que chacune des principales nations y a prise, dit que des \$18,000,000,000 de transactions commerciales qui se font chaque année, la part du Royaume-Uni est actuellement de 18.3 pour cent, celle de l'Allemagne 10.8 pour cent et celle des Etats-Unis 9.7 pour cent. Ce fonctionnaire fait aussi remarquer que le commerce extérieur de l'Alle-

magne s'est développé aux dépens de celui de l'Angleterre et que les Etats-Unis, qui sont à leur début, augmentent leur trafic à l'étranger au détriment de l'Angleterre et de l'Allemagne. En Australie, en Afrique, dans l'Amérique du Sud et en Chine, les représentants commerciaux de chaque nation consacrent tous leurs efforts à la création de marchés pour l'écoulement des produits de leur pays.

On dit que M. W. E. SCOTT, professeur à l'Université Princeton, va publier une monographie des oiseaux Patagons. M. SCOTT fit, il y a trois mois, un voyage à Londres dans le but de comparer les oiseaux Patagons que possède Princeton avec ceux des mêmes régions qui se trouvent actuellement dans le musée anglais. Quand il revint à Princeton, le 10 mai, il raconta qu'il avait découvert 14 nouvelles espèces d'oiseaux appartenant à la famille des gobe-mouches, des roitelets et des grimpereaux.

# MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

## BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

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Vol. VIII.

JANUARY-JUNE,

1900.

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WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1900.



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# BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas,

UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS.

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Vol. VIII.

ENERO-JUNIO,

1900.

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WÁSHINGTON:  
IMPRESA DEL GOBIERNO.  
1900.





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# BOLETIM MENSAL

DA

## Secretaria das Republicas Americanas,

UNIÃO INTERNACIONAL DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS.

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Vol. VIII.  
JANEIRO-JUNHO,  
1900.

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WASHINGTON:  
IMPrensa DO GOVERNO.  
1900.



I N D I C E  
DO  
BOLETIM MENSAL  
DA  
SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS.

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# BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

Bureau des Républiques Américaines,

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES.

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Vol. VIII.  
JANVIER-JUIN  
1900.

---

WASHINGTON:  
IMPRIMERIE NATIONALE.

1900.



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